

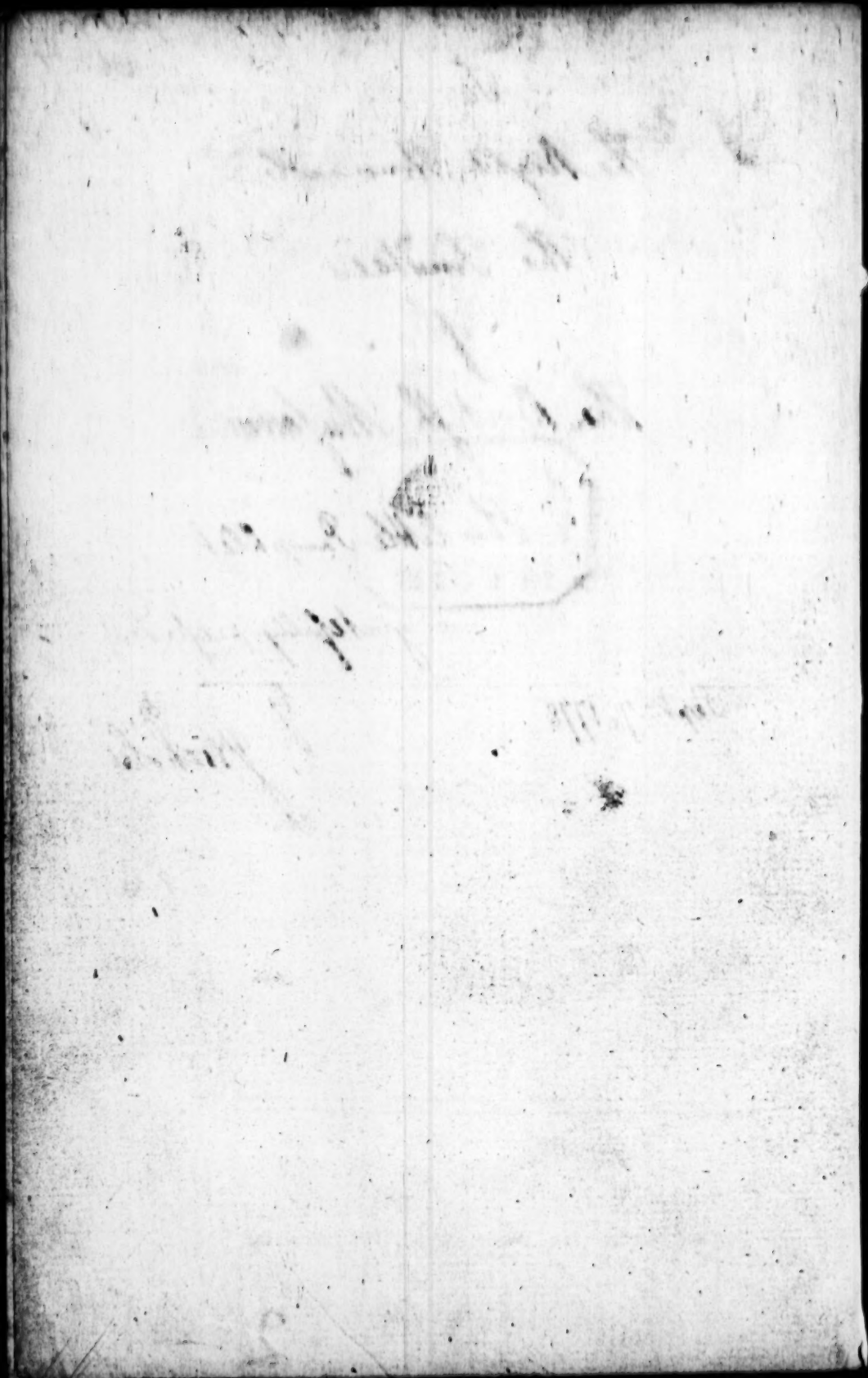
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To
The Right Honourable
The Trustees
of
The British Museum

This little Pamphlet

is gratefully presented,

Sept: 7, 1778

by Nichols



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A N E C D O T E S,

BIOGRAPHICAL AND LITERARY,

OF THE LATE

MR. WILLIAM BOWYER,
P R I N T E R,

COMPILED FOR PRIVATE USE.



L O N D O N:

PRINTED IN THE YEAR MDCCCLXVIII.

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A N E C D O T E S

BIOGRAPHICAL AND LITERARY

OF THE

M R W I L L I A M B O W D E N



C O M M I S S I O N E R S



L O N D O N :

P R I N T E D I N T H E S T A M P O O F F I C E

AN E C D O T E S

CONCERNING THE LATE

Mr. WILLIAM BOWYER, PRINTER.

IT hath been justly observed, that "the life of a Scholar seldom abounds with adventure." In that of Mr. *Bowyer* some remarkable incidents have most probably been consigned to oblivion, by his attachment to the duties of a fatiguing profession, and a timidity too frequently attendant on merit.

He was born in *White Fryars*, Dec. 17, 1699; and may almost be said to have been a printer à cunabulis. His father, whose name was also *William**, was one of the most eminent of his profession; and his maternal grandfather (*Isabod Dawks* †) was employed in printing the celebrated *Polyglott Bible* of Bp. *Walton*.

At a proper age he was placed under the care of the pious and learned Mr. *Ambrose Bonwicke* ‡, (who had once been

* Son of *John Bowyer*, grocer. He was admitted a freeman of *London*, Oct. 7, 2 *James II*; and opened his printing-office in 1699.

† His son (of whom see *Tatler*, No 178.) was the printer of a newspaper in the reign of queen *Anne*, and is introduced by the excellent author of *Phædra* and *Hippolitus*, in his elegant poem, intitled, *Charlettus Percivallo suo*;

"Scribe securus, quid agit Senatus,

"Quid caput sterit grave Lambethanum,

"Quid Comes *Guilford*, quid habent novorum

"*Dawks*que *Dyerque*."

‡ This conscientious divine was born April 29, 1632, went to *St. John's College, Cambridge*, in 1668, where he was appointed librarian in 1670; B. A. 1673; was ordained presbyter on *Trinity Sunday*, 1680; and elected master of *Merchant Taylors School*, June 9, 1680. In 1689, the college of *St. John's* petitioned that he might continue master of the School for life; but in 1691 he was turned out for refusing to take the oaths of supremacy. A curious correspondence of his, with Mr. *Blechynden*, on this occasion, is in being,

Master of *Merchant Taylors School*) at *Headley**, near *Leatherhead*, in *Surrey*, where his advances in literature were such as reflected the highest credit both on himself and his preceptor; for whose memory, to his latest years, he entertained the sincerest respect; and to whose family he was always an useful friend. The attachment, indeed, was mutual. One instance of the good school-master's benevolence, which made an indelible impression on the mind of his pupil, appeared in the following letter, written a few days after the dreadful fire † (*Jan. 30, 1712-13*), which destroyed the whole property of the elder Mr. *Bowyer* :

“ MY GOOD FRIEND,

“ I heard of the sad calamity, it has pleased God to try you
“ with, last *Monday*; but concealed it from your son ‡ till I had
“ the account from yourself, and then broke it to him as gently
“ as I could: he could not forbear shedding some tears; but
“ that was no more than some of your friends here had done for
“ you before, and it would be some comfort to them if their
“ sharing in it might lessen your grief. We have in *Job* a noble
“ example of patience and resignation under even a severer trial
“ than this of yours; for, God be praised, though you have lost
“ a worthy friend, your children are alive, and one || of them
“ providentially disposed of a little before, the news of which

* The poet *Fenton* was then usher at that school.

† See an admirable letter on the same occasion from Dean *Stanhope*, in *The Gentleman's Magazine*, 1777, p. 558. Some other affecting letters on this subject are in MS.—The damage sustained amounted to 5146 *l.* 18*s.* To the honour of *English* humanity, let it be known, that, by the contributions of his friends, and those of his own fraternity in particular, Mr. *Bowyer* received towards his loss the sum of 2539 *l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*; of which 1377 *l.* 9*s.* 4*d.* arose from a *brief*, the original return to which is now in the possession of his son.

‡ This circumstance Mr. *Bowyer* used frequently to mention with the highest gratitude; as he did another of the same nature. When the *brief* was to be read in *Headley-church*, Mr. *Bonwicke* contrived that he should be kept at home, without assigning the reason for it. The writer of these memoirs accompanied him to that village so lately as 1774, when Mr. *Bowyer*, with great satisfaction, repeated the above and many other particulars of his younger years.

|| Mr. *Bowyer's* daughter (by a former wife). She had just before been married to Mr. *James Bettendham*, who was likewise a printer. She died *July 9, 1735*, at the age of 39.

“ proved

" proved a happy mixture in your melancholy letter; and though
 " you began with it, I made it the close of my narrative to your
 " son. And when we *have seen the end of the Lord*, as St. James
 " expresses it, we shall find that he is *very pitiful, and of tender*
 " *mercy*, as he was to his servant Job, whose losses in the end
 " were abundantly repaired; and since he is still the same God,
 " if our behaviour be conformable, we may humbly hope for
 " the like treatment. As an earnest of which, I must tell you,
 " that he has already put it into the heart of a certain person,
 " upon hearing of your great loss, to pay the whole charges
 " of your son's board, &c. for one year; the person desires to
 " be nameless, that the thanks may be returned to God only.
 " My wife, who truly condole with you, gives her service to
 " yourself and Mrs. Bowyer, to whom pray give mine also, and
 " to my good friend Mr. Ross: our service likewise, with hearty
 " wishes of much joy (notwithstanding this melancholy begin-
 " ning) to the new-married gentlewoman: your son speaks for
 " himself in the inclosed, which he just now brought to,

" S I R,

Headley,

" Your condoling friend,

Feb. 6, 1712-3.

" and faithful servant,

" AMBR. BONWICKE."

Mr. Bowyer was admitted, as a sizar, at *St. John's College, Cambridge*, in *June 1716*. Dr. Robert Tenkin, the master of that college, had been a benefactor to his father in calamity; and the son, at the distance of sixty years, had the happiness of returning the favour to a relation of the worthy master, in a manner by which the person obliged was totally ignorant to whom he was indebted for the present he received.

In 1719, he appears to have been a candidate for a fellowship; at least a *Latin* letter of his is extant, in which he seems ambitious of that honour.

He continued at college till *June 1722*, under the tuition of the Rev. Dr. John Newcome*; and, notwithstanding an habitual shyness, his regularity of conduct and application to study secured him the esteem of many very respectable members of the university. It was in that seminary of learning he formed an

* The late Bishop Squire was nephew to this gentleman.

intimacy with Mr. *Markland*† and Mr. *Clarke*‡, two friends with whom he regularly maintained a correspondence throughout life.

Many

† Mr. *Jeremiab Markland*, born in *August* 1692, was one of the twelve children of the Rev. *Ralph Markland*. Educated in *Christ's Hospital*, he was thence sent to *Peter-house*; of which, at his death, he was senior fellow. He was one of the most learned Scholars and penetrating Critics of the age. A *Latin* copy of verses of his appeared in the "*Cambridge Graduations*, 1714;" and his name is to be found as an assistant to *Ogle* in the "*Canterbury Tales*." But he became first publicly known, in 1723, by his "*Epistola Critica*," addressed to *Bp. Hare*, in which he gave many proofs of extensive erudition and critical sagacity. He published an edition of "*Statius's Silva*, 1728," 4to; Notes on "*Maximus Tyrius*, 1740;" a valuable volume of "*Remarks on the Epistles of Cicero to Brutus*, 1745," 8vo; an excellent little treatise under the title of "*De Græcorum Quintâ Declinatione Imparisyllabicâ, & inde formatâ Latinorum Tertiâ, Quæstio Grammatica*, 1761," 4to. No more than forty copies having been printed, which were all given away; it was annexed, in 1763, to an admirable edition of the "*Supplices Mulieres*" of *Euripides*, in 4to. Why this was published anonymously, a letter of his to Mr. *Bewyer* will explain: "As to the compliments of Scholars, I believe you do not set any great value upon them, and I believe I set as little; to avoid which myself, and to excuse others the necessity of making them right or wrong, were two reasons why no name is put to this edition." The following curious memorandum is taken from his own hand-writing (in 1764) in a copy of that book: "This was printed at the expence of Dr. *Heberden*, A. D. 1763. There were only 250 copies printed, this kind of study being at that time greatly neglected in *England*. The Writer of the Notes was then old and infirm; and having by him several things of the same sort, written many years before, he did not think it worth while to revise them; and was unwilling to leave them behind him as they were, in many places not legible to any body but himself; for which reason he destroyed them. Probably it will be a long time (if ever) before this sort of learning will revive in *England*; in which it is easy to foresee that there must be a disturbance in a few years, and all public disorders are enemies to this sort of literature." Fortunately, however, for the world of letters, the notes on the two "*Iphigeniæ*" were preserved, and presented, "*Doctissimo, & quidè longè præstantius est, Humanissimo Viro Wilhelmo Heberden, M. D. arbitratus ejus vel cremandæ vel in publicum emittendæ.*" They were in consequence given to the world in 1771, in 8vo; and the "*Supplices Mulleres*" with the "*Quæstio Grammatica*" were reprinted in that size in 1775. Mr. *Markland* assisted Dr. *Taylor* in his editions of *Lyllas* and *Demosthenes*, by the notes which he communicated. The like service he conferred on Mr. *Arnald*, in the second edition of his "*Commentary on the Book of Wisdom*." He also very happily elucidated many passages in the New Testament, which may be found in Mr. *Bewyer's* "*Conjectures*." In 1746, he talked at a distance of publishing the "*rest of Statius*;" and in 1771 he mentioned a work as being in forwardness, under the title of "*Quæstiones Venusinæ, ad Horatii Carmina*," &c. having got as far as *Serm. l. 3.* in the transcription." He was not more valued for his universal reading, than beloved for the excellence of his heart, and primitive simplicity of manners. The latter part of his life was passed in

Many of their letters are still extant, and are a treasure of polite literature and sound criticism. Both these friends he survived; and sympathetically lamented their loss.

On the death of Mr. *Bonwicke* (Oct. 20, 1722), his grateful scholar had an opportunity of requiting in some measure the obligations he had received, by officiating for some time in the capacity of a school-master for the benefit of the family.

In January 1724-5, he was executor to the will of Mr. *James Bonwicke* (a son of his worthy master); who bequeathed to him the small cabinet || which in his own will he gave to a benevolent friend for whom he had always entertained the highest esteem.

One of the first books which received the benefit of his correction, after his return from *Cambridge*, was the complete edi-

in the little village of *Milton*, near *Dorking*, in *Surrey*; where he described himself, in 1755, to be "as much out of the way of hearing, as of getting. Of this last (he adds) I have now no desire; the other I should be glad of." What first induced him to retire from the world is not known. It has been supposed to have proceeded from disappointment; but of what nature it is not easy to imagine. He was certainly disinterested to an extreme. Money was never considered by him as a good, any further than it enabled him to relieve the necessitous. And if ambition had been his aim, he might have gratified it, there being a positive proof, under his own hand, that he twice declined the *Greek* professorship; a station where abilities like his would have been eminently displayed. On the 28th of February, 1743-4, he tells Mr. *Bowyer*, "I suppose you have heard that the *Greek* Professor at *Cambridge* is dying. I am invited very kindly to accept of it by several friends, who have given me information, and advised me to be a candidate. 'Αλλ' ἐμὲ οὐκ ἐπιθυμῶ τοῦ ἐκείνου ἰσχυροῦς, to speak in the language of a *Greek* Professor; and instead of going an hundred miles to take it, I would go two hundred the other way to avoid it." Again, Feb. 27, 1749-50, "I have lately had two letters from the Vicechancellor (Dr *Keene*, our Master), who wishes me to take the *Greek* Professorship, which is about to be vacant again. You, who know me, will not wonder that I have absolutely refused to be a candidate for it. This, perhaps, is a secret at present, and therefore do not mention it to any body." He died July 7, 1776, and bequeathed all his books and papers to Dr. *Heberden*.

† Mr. *William Clarke* was born at *Haghton Abbey* in *Shropshire*, 1696; educated at *Shrewsbury School*, was fellow of *St. John's*, and chaplain successively to Bp. *Otley* and *Thomas Holles Duke of Newcastle*. The living of *Buxted* was given to him by Abp. *Wake*; and he was afterwards residentiary and chancellor of the church of *Chichester*, where he died Oct. 21, 1771. He married a daughter of the celebrated Dr. *Wotton*, by whom he had one daughter and a son (the ingenious author of the "Letters concerning the *Spanish Nation*, 1763") to whom he resigned *Buxted* in his life-time. He wrote a learned Preface to Dr. *Wotton's* Collection of the *Welsh Laws*. But his principal work was, a volume on Coins, which we shall have occasion to mention hereafter.

|| "I leave my cabinet of medals to my dear friend Mr. *William Bowyer* Junior."—Mr. *J. Bonwicke's* Will.

tion of *Selden*, in three folio volumes; begun in 1722, and finished in 1726. An instance of his great attention to this work is still extant, in what he calls "An Epitome of *Selden*, taken in haste as I read the proofs."

In 1726, the learned world was indebted to him for an admirable sketch of the learned *William Baxter's* Glossary of the *Roman Antiquities*, which he printed under the title of "View of a Book, entitled, *Reliquiæ Baxterianæ*, In a Letter to a Friend." A single sheet, 8vo. Of this View Mr. *Clarke*, in a letter without date, says, "Your account of *Baxter's* Glossary has pleased the Doctor [Dr. *Watson*] exceedingly; and it is his opinion that we shall see your own press produce nothing better than what you put into it. It is exactly to his taste; and books which have the greatest variety of matter, require the greatest judgment to give a proper view of them. After his opinion, you need not ask, nor can I think it worth the while to mention, my own: this is the first view which you have given the public of yourself; the only fault I find with it is, that it is not so large as the life; the more we see of it, the better we shall like it." Very few copies were printed; and it is seldom found with the Glossary, having never been published.

On the 20th of *December* 1727, he lost an affectionate mother; and received on that occasion the following consolatory letter from the learned Editor of the * *Antiquitates Asiaticæ*:

"SIR,

"I would not trouble you with any business of mine yesterday, having too great a fellow-feeling of your case, and knowing how heavily you must then go, as *one that mourneth for his mother*. It is now your turn, as it once was mine, to experience the divine rhetoric of that expression, in the fewest and lowest words, the fullest and highest that can be made, But withal, *Sunt verba & voces quibus hunc lenire dolorem—possis*; I mean that irresistible consolation of St. Paul, *1Thess.* iv. 13, 14.

"I doubt not but this, and many like Christian comforts, occur of themselves to you, with all the advantage of reflection, Providence, when I was under the same disconsolate circumstances, the very day after I received the afflicting news,

* Mr. *Bowyer's* copy of this curious book, which was rendered still more valuable by his MS. observations, has since his death (agreeably to his directions when living) been presented to Lord *Sandy*.

"led

" led me to *Westminster Abbey*, and there first fed, and then alleviated my sorrow by a *Greek* inscription :

Μνημονίων τῆς σῆς ἀγαθότητος, &c.
Αἰάζου σε καλλίον, καὶ λυπημαί σφοδρῶς.
Ἀλλ' οὐκ ὡς ἀγνοῶν, &c.
Τὴν γὰρ ἀνάγκην νικῶν
Πιπίου βίβουδης, καὶ προσδοκῶ.

" The melancholy occasion will, I hope, be so far from hindering, that it will rather incline you to retire hither, and to fly a little from the place, though you cannot fly from the time of mourning. If he could find it convenient, I should be very glad to see your father with you; and, in the meantime, with my hearty prayers for the consolation of both him and you, I remain,

" Your assured friend, and humble servant,

Christmas-day, 1727.

" EDM. CHISHULL."

Deeply as he was enamoured with Science, he was not insensible to the power of Beauty. Very highly to the satisfaction of his father, he entered into the marriage-state, *Oct. 9, 1728*, with Miss *Anne Prudom*, his mother's niece. By that accomplished woman (whom he unfortunately lost *Oct. 17, 1731*, at the age of 26) he had two sons; *William*, who died an infant; and *Thomas*, who survived him.

On the death of *Mrs. Bowyer*, he received this very affectionate letter from *Mr. Clarke* :

" DEAR SIR,

Buxted, Oct. 25, 1731.

" I was very much shocked at your melancholy letter; and am wholly at a loss what to say or think upon so sorrowful an occasion. The repeated afflictions which you have so often had of late in parting with persons very dear to you, seem only to have been preparing the way for this, the greatest you can ever suffer: these are trying circumstances, and there is no way of finding relief, but by seeking it from that hand which sent them. When such instances of submission to the Divine Will are demanded of us, there is no doubt but as extraordinary assistances will be ready for our support.

" But I can say nothing upon this subject that you are a stranger to. I would choose rather to give your thoughts another

" turn, and persuade you to try how the solitude of the country
 " suits with them : here you will have fewer objects to keep up
 " the impressions of sorrow, and at this season need not fear any
 " interruptions, that will occasion you the least ceremony. The
 " time of visiting in the country is now over ; and Mr. *Lloyd*,
 " who is now in town, has a man and two horses to come down
 " on *Saturday*. He is going with his son to *Cambridge*, and
 " lodges (I think) at the *Bull* in *Bishopsgate*. If you have
 " leisure enough to take such a ride, it will be a convenience to
 " him. I cannot possibly stir from home, now Mr. Canon has
 " the care of two churches : but should think that a little change
 " of air, and the company of your more distant friends, cannot
 " be improper upon such an occasion. I am,

" Dear Sir,

" Most affectionately yours,

" W. CLARKE.

" My humble service to Mr. *Bowyer*."

Mr. *Chisbull* also again condoled with him, in terms becoming
 the man of letters, the friend, and the Christian :

" GOOD SIR,

Walthamstowe, Feb. 9, 1731-2.

" From the shadow and vale of death, in which I have sat
 " above three months, I come now, though late, yet most sin-
 " cerely to condole the unspeakable loss that you sustained, when
 " it pleased God to take away from you the delight of your eyes
 " by a stroke. Yet I hope you have not mourned, at least do
 " not still mourn, excessively ; but considered, that He who
 " gives us all good things, reserves always his right of resump-
 " tion ; more especially in the case of matrimony, which is never
 " contracted without the express mention of being parted by
 " death. The survivor, therefore, must look upon his term of
 " happiness as expired by God's overruling providence, yet not
 " without the continuance of his favour, if we receive the mighty
 " change with submission and contentment.

" It was a moving circumstance in your letter, not read with-
 " out the tears of all our family, in that she designed us a visit
 " for those which proved her last hours ; and it shall ever remain
 " upon us as a debt to her pious memory. You, I hope, will
 " fulfill her kind intention by seeing us now as soon, and after-
 " wards as often, as you can ; which to my children, who all
 " mourn.

"mournfully salute you, as well as to myself, will be esteemed
"the greatest favour. I am, Sir,

"Your most compassionate friend and servant,
"EDM. CHISHULL,

"My service waits on your good father,
"with wishes for his and yours and
"the little orphan's health, this and
"many following new years."

In 1730, he ushered into the world a curious treatise, under the title of "A Pattern for young Students in the University," set forth in the Life of Mr. *Ambrose Bonwicke*, some time "Scholar of St. John's College, Cambridge." This little volume was generally supposed to be written by Mr. *Bowyer*; but was in reality the production of *Ambrose Bonwicke* the elder, and came into Mr. *Bowyer's* hands as executor to *James*. This assertion is confirmed by a letter under the author's hand, addressed to his wife, and found unopened at his death; in which he particularly bequeathed two guineas to his son, for the trouble he would have in the task enjoined him.

Mr. *Clarks*, in a letter, dated Aug. 11, 1739, says, "Dr. *Hare* was so pleased with your pamphlet against the Separatists, that he carried it off by force, and I must beg another upon any terms." What this was, is not at present recollected.

Through the friendship of the Right Honourable *Aisbur Onslow*, a friendship as honourable to him as on the part of that eminent Statesman it was sincere, he was appointed Printer of the Votes of the House of Commons in 1739; an office he held near fifty years, under three successive Speakers.

In 1730, a Mutek-Speech by Dr. *Taylor*, his contemporary at St. John's, is said, in the title-page, to be "printed by W. Bowyer."

Dr. *Jesse Taylor* was born about 1703 at *Sherborne*, where he received the early part of his education. He afterwards was sent to Cambridge, and became a member of St. John's College, of which he was elected a Fellow, and was afterwards Registrar of the University. One of the earliest, if not the first, of his publications, was "The Mutek-Speech as the publick commencement in Cambridge, Jan 6, 1730. To which is added, An Ode, designed to have been recited to music on that occasion." It does not appear whether this speech was delivered or not. As another was published by Roger Long, M. A. afterwards D. D. which was actually spoken on that day, it is probable Mr. *Taylor's* was made public only from the press. In 1732 appeared the Proposals for his *Lazar*; on which Mrs. *Clarks* writes thus to Mr. *Bowyer*: "I am glad Mr. *Taylor* is got into your press; it will make his *Lazar* more correct. I hope you will not let him print too great a number of copies. It will encourage a young Editor, to have his first attempt rise upon his hands. I fancy you have

"yer, Jun. a Student of the same College." A particularity which hath not been noticed in any other piece that he printed.

In

"got him in the press for life, if he has any tolerable success there: he is too busy a man to be idle." It was at last published, under the title of *Lyſia Orationes & Fragmenta, Græcæ & Latine*. Ad fidem Codd. Manuscriptorum recensuit, Notis Criticis, Interpretatione Nova, ceteroque apparatu necessario donavit *Joannes Taylor, A. M. Coll. D. Joan. Cantab. Soc. Academiæ olim a Bibliothecis, hodie a Commentariis*. Accessit Cl. *Jer. Marklandi, Col. D. Pet. Soc.* Conjectura. Londini, rex Officinâ *Gulielmi Bouyer*, in Aedibus olim Carmeliticiis, 1739. The same year he published *Proposals for printing Demosthenes and Aſtinius*. The Dedication to Lord *Carteret*, intended for the first volume (which Dr. Taylor did not live to publish) is dated Dec. 3, 1747; the third volume, 1748; and the second, 1757. Earl *Granville*, then Lord *Carteret*, had before this time intrusted to his care the education of his Grandsons, Lord *Viscount Weymouth* and Mr. *Thynne*; and, as Dr. Taylor informs us, at the same time laid the plan, and suggested the methods, of their education. In consequence of this nobleman's recommendation, "to lay out the rudiments of civil life, and of social duties; to inquire into the foundations of justice and of equity; and to examine the principal obligations which arise from these several connections into which Providence has thought proper to distribute the human species," Dr. Taylor was led, as he says, to "the system of that people who, without any invidious comparison, are allowed to have written the best comment upon the great volume of nature." These researches afterwards produced his "Elements of the Civil Law," printed in 4to, 1755; and this latter work, it is well known, occasioned a valuable preface to the third volume of the "Divine Legation." In 1741 he published "*Demosthenis Oratio adversus Leptinem*," 4to, probably a specimen; in 1742, "*Commentarius ad L. Cornelianam de Insuper Debitore*" in partes disceptando; *Quem in scholis Juridicis Cantabrigiæ, Julii 1741*, recitavit, cum pro Gradu solenniter responderet *Joannes Taylor, LL. D. Collegii D. Joannis socius*. Accesserunt etiam eruditissimis conspectus nec in lucem hactenus editæ, *Notæ ad Marmor Supranum Jovi Uræ Sacrum*. *Dissertatio de voce Pueror*. *Explicatio Inscriptionis in Antiquo Marmore Oxon. De Historiâ Anglicanâ Commentatio*, 4to, in 1743; "*Orationes Duæ, una Demosthenis contra Midiam, altera Lycurgi contra Leocratem, Græcæ & Latine*; recensuit, emendavit, notasque addidit *Joannes Taylor, LL. D. Coll. D. Joan. Soc.*" In the same year, "*Marmor Sandvicensæ, cum Commentario & Notis Joannis Taylor, LL. D.*" being a Dissertation on a Marble brought into England by Lord *Sandwich* in 1739. A Sermon of his, at *Bishop Stortford*, on the anniversary school-feast, Aug. 22, 1749, is in print; as is another, before the House of Commons, on the fast-day, Feb. 11, 1757. — Having been admitted an advocate in *Dotters Common*, Feb. 15, 1741, he succeeded Dr. *Reynolds*, as Chancellor of the diocese of *Linc.* in April 1744, but did not enter into orders until late in life. By a letter from Mr. *Clarendon* to Mr. *Bouyer*, without date, but written probably in 1745, when Lord *Carteret* was Secretary of State, the former says, "If he (Dr. Taylor) will persist in not going into orders, though an Archbishop would persuade him to it, it is plain he is no great friend to the Church, though, as my lord *Halifax* said when he kept Mr. *Addison* out of it, I believe it is the only injury he will ever do it. I heartily wish he may be more agreeably, he will scarce be more usefully, employed. Supposing, which I am in some hopes of, from his Grace's recommendation, that my

" lord

In the year 1731 appeared "The Traditions of the Clergy destructive of Religion: with an Enquiry into the Grounds, and Reasons of such Traditions. A Sermon preached at the Visitation held at *Wakefield* in *Yorkshire*, June 25, 1731, by *William Bowman*, M. A. Vicar of *Dewsbury*." The publication of this performance gave great disgust to the Clergy; and Mr. *Bowman* was attacked, both ludicrously and gravely on account of it. Among others who took up the pen upon this occasion, we find Mr. *Bowyer*; who printed a pamphlet called, "The Traditions of the Clergy not destructive of Religion. Being Remarks on Mr. *Bowman's* Sermon; exposing that Gentleman's Deficiency in *Latin* and *Greek*, in Ecclesiastical History and true Reasoning." Mr. *Clarke*, in a letter dated Dec. 1731, says, "I believe I never thanked you for the reasonable correction you have given the Vicar of *Dewsbury*. It is necessary that all such writers should receive some animadversion. Though I find the man has more judgement than I at first imagined he could possibly be master of. He could not resist the vanity of being an author; but is wise enough to think that there is no necessity of defending every thing that he may take a fancy to print. It will be impossible to provoke him to an answer." In another letter, dated Oct. 13, 1731, the same Gentleman says, "I am not displeased with finding that my brother *Bowman* is like to have some demands upon you; his answer, which has been long threatened, with, perhaps, like *Thomann*, appear at last; and it may possibly give you the

"lord *Cartwright* should make him one of the Under Secretaries, what will become of all the Orators of the ages past? Instead of publishing the sentiments of antient Demagogues, his whole time will be engrossed in cooking up and concealing the many hypocrisies of modern politicians. But, however, I should rejoice to see him so employed, and hope there is some prospect of it." His preferments, after he entered into orders, were as follows; the Arch-deaconry of *Buckingham*; the Rectory of *Canford* in *Dorset* (a college living) in April 1731; the Residencyship of *St. Paul's*, (succeeding Dr. *Ferris*, who is said to have been raised to the see of *Peterborough* expressly to make the vacancy) in July 1737; and the office of prolocutor to the lower house of convocation the same year. He was also commissary of *Lincoln* and of *Hereford*.—He was a valuable member both of the Royal and Antiquarian Societies, his name being distinguished in the publications of each; and was appointed Director of the latter of them, Apr. 23, 1719, and at the next meeting one of their vice-presidents. He was esteemed one of the most disinterested and amiable, as he was one of the most learned, of his profession; and died, universally lamented and beloved, April 6, 1766. His valuable library he gave by will to the school where he had received his education; his MSS. and printed Books with MS. Notes, and "*Tarentianus Maurus*," fol. Mediolani, 1497, (supposed to be an *unique*) by a specific legacy to Dr. *Ashmole*.—At the time of his death, an octavo edition of his *Demogogues* was just finished at the University press, and four sheets of an "Appendix to *Suidas*."—Some Remarks of Dr. *Taylor's* (and also of Mr. *Markland's*), were inserted in Mr. *Foster's* "Essay on Accent and Quantity, 1763."

"same

" same sort of employment * : you may find *something to correct in*
 " *every sheet*. I was indeed then a stranger to his person, at first
 " something prejudiced in favour of his discretion ; that he was at
 " least wise enough to retire from more danger ; and that I might
 " say of him, as *Horace* does of a nation † not well acquainted
 " with the art of war,

" *Laxo meditatur arcu*

" *Cedere campis.*

" But if he has a mind to try his fortune once more in *Paul's*
 " *Church-yard*, whatever I may think of his courage, I shall have
 " no great opinion of his conduct. As for you, I am sure it can
 " never be your business to drop a controversy in which you have
 " nothing to fear. Make the most of him ; and, in the stile of the
 " *Votes, call him to order.*" This threatened answer, we believe,
 never appeared ; and indeed it is generally supposed, that Mr.
Bowman's insignificant work was by no means deserving the no-
 tice which was taken of it from so many different quarters. Besides
 nine or ten pamphlets, the papers of the times abound with allu-
 sions on a performance which would of itself have sunk in obli-
 vion, as indeed hath already been the fate of the whole controversy.

Mr. *Bowyer* was an early and an active member of the Society
 of Antiquaries ; to which honour he was admitted in 1737. It
 appears from the minute-books of that respectable Body, that he
 regularly attended their meetings, and frequently communicated
 to them matters of utility and curiosity, in the double capacity of
 a printer and a member of their Society.

Among other communications, was a letter to Mr. *Gale*, occa-
 sioned by an inscription on *Vitellius*, found at *Bath*, in *August* 1736,
 the substance of which is printed in his preface to the "*Veteres*
 "*Poetae citati, &c.*" of *Leedes*, annexed to "*Kuster De vero Usu*
 "*Verborum Mediorum*, 1753." The whole Dissertation, with some
 notes on it by the great Antiquary to whom it was addressed, is
 preserved in Mr. *Allen* of *Darlington's* curious MS. " Collections
 " relating to the Antiquities of *Great Britain*, transcribed from
 " the manuscript papers of *Roger Gale, Esq.*"

A Dissertation of his on the *Gule* or *Rule* of our *Saxon* an-
 cestors (on which Dr. *Pettingal* has learnedly treated in the
Archæologia, vol. II. p. 60.) is still in MS.

In conjunction with Dr. *Birch*, he was also materially concerned
 in instituting the " Society for the Encouragement of Learning."
 This Society, whose commencement may be dated *Feb. 3, 1737*,
 printed, in the course of three years contract with their book-

* It appears that Mr. *Buckley* employed Mr. *Bowyer* to correct *Thuanes*
 for him ; to which Mr. *Clarke* alludes. † The *Scythians*, 3 *Carm. vill. sat.*
 sellers,

fellars, no more than four books; Dr. *Stuart*, "De Motu Musculari;" Sir *William Keith's* "History of Virginia;" Mr. *Carte's* "Letters," and Professor *Stuart's* "Necessity of Revelation;" none of which were very large or expensive. Sir *Thomas Roe's* "Negotiations" were published by them in 1740; *Maximus Tyrinus* the same year; *Ælianus* "De Animalibus," in 1743; *Tanner's* "Notitia Monastica," in January 1743-4; and *Newton's* "Quadrature of Curves" in September 1745. By "A Memorial of the present State of Affairs of the Society," dated Apr. 17, 1746, it appears they had incurred so considerable a debt as to be deterred from proceeding any further. The "Bibliotheca Britannica" of Bp. *Tanner* was, however, completed under their patronage, and made its appearance in 1748.

On the 27th of December, 1737, Mr. *Bowyer* lost his father at the age of 74. From his scattered papers, it is evident that he severely felt this affliction; applying to himself the following beautiful citation from the plaintive *Mantuan* *:

"Hic me, pater optime, fessum
Deseris, heu! tantis nequicquam erepte periculis!"

He received, on this occasion, a most friendly letter from Mr. *Clarke*:

"DEAR SIR,

"I saw lately, by meer accident, in the news-papers, that Mr. *Bowyer* was dead; and am very sensible of the great concern that you are under upon that account. It is a natural, I believe I might say, a desirable, infirmity: they who feel no affliction at the loss of their friends, can have had no pleasure in the enjoyment of them. A person, whom you have been so long used to look upon with love and reverence, must, at bidding you farewell for ever, raise some sorrowful sentiments, not to be easily suppressed. I wish it was my good fortune to have an opportunity of being with you upon this occasion. Not that I could be of the least use, or could say any thing which you have not heard and thought of in a much better manner a thousand times before. But I should like to find you so much alone, to see you planning out new scenes of life, or pleasing yourself with the prospects of those that will succeed when life is over.—*Pliny* has observed, upon

* Virg. *Æn.* iii. 710.

" the loss of one of his old friends (I don't remember who).
 " *That nothing that he had ever heard or read upon such occasions*
 " *could give him any relief; his sorrow was superior to all usual*
 " *consolations.*—Though I am always a little apt to suspect the
 " sentiments of such professed wits, as not quite sincere, rather
 " delicate than just; yet if the observation was true, it must be
 " carried no further than the first natural impressions; nothing
 " new that could be said could have more weight with him than
 " what had been said ten thousand times over. I own there is
 " something in the glitter of a new thought, like that of a new
 " coin; it of course catches our attention for some moments,
 " and we view it perhaps in two or three different lights; but
 " when that is over, we lay no more value upon it, or believe
 " that it has really any more weight, than the coins of former
 " princes: it is just so with our thoughts; they may lose some-
 " thing of their lustre, by being given and taken so often upon
 " common occasions; but their real value is the same.

" I am writing this at Mr. *Lloyd's*; a visit that of late always
 " gives me some concern; he wears apace, declines visibly; *in*
 " he is doing the very thing that we must all of us soon do after
 " him. His distemper may perhaps let him live many years;
 " but in such a manner as to be too sensibly affected with the
 " pains of living. If such afflictions are made truly useful to the
 " interests of another life, they are in that view desirable visita-
 " tions; but when that is done, their friends should not shew
 " any over-great impatience at parting with them. I hope *Tom*
 " is with you; he will be one of your best companions; I should
 " be pleased to see him, as no doubt he is a much greater phi-
 " losopher than his father; and that you may not leave him
 " till you can do it with the same satisfaction that your father
 " has now done, is what I truly wish, who am, with the greatest
 " sincerity,

" Your most affectionate,

" *W. C.*"

In the year 1740, he purchased a monument, which he in-
 tended should serve both for his father and himself. The stone
 was completed, except the inscription; and in that state was
 placed on the outside of the mason's house at *Hampstead*, where
 it perished by the weather in the life-time of the person who
 bought it for his tomb.

In 1742 he published "Lectures on Poetry, read in the Schools of Natural Philosophy at Oxford, by Joseph Trapp, A. M. Fellow of Wadham College, and Reader of Poetical Lectures lately founded in that University by Henry Birkhead, D. D. sometime Fellow of All Souls College; translated from the Latin, with additional Notes." Let his own account of this work speak for itself: "Whatever reasons have been given for translating *Virgil*, and writing an *English* Comment on him, may be urged in behalf of these *English* Lectures; which, as they are an illustration of Poetry in general, so are they of *Virgil* in particular. The notes to this edition were chiefly added as it went through the press; in which, though I sometimes differ from my ingenious author, yet I hope not with greater freedom than he has taken with others, and will pardon in me. I am well aware how easy it is to let some mistakes slip in the heat of composition; and when these had once passed the press, the author, I suppose, was not very solicitous to re-examine minutely the subsequent editions; satisfied with the approbation he had received from that learned body, before whom his Lectures were first delivered: an honour which I shall never wish to see diminished by any thing I can say, or any one else; and shall now therefore with much greater pleasure take this opportunity of repeating the testimony of them from Mr. Felton*.

"The several passages cited from *Virgil* are printed in *English* from Dr. Trapp's Version. The other Poetical Translations without a name the Editor is to be accountable for, though he wishes he had as good a title to the excellence of two or three of them, as he has to the imperfections of the rest."

While Mr. Bowyer was engaged about this translation, he used to ask the advice of his friend Mr. Clarke†, who, however, had no high opinion of the work; as will appear from the following passage in an undated letter from that gentleman: "I now begin to think that your translation of *Trapp's Praelections* will take; for it is really but a very superficial book. Though, for the future, I desire that we might always say *Lectures*, in the modern style; *Praelections* will never do in town. He has offend-

* See the Preface to *Felton's Dissertations*, p. xxi.

† It appears, indeed, from various letters of Mr. Clarke, to have been a joint production with that gentleman.

ed me very much by affecting to find fault with *Vossius* upon every little occasion; and therefore you must excuse me if I now and then speak peevishly of the Doctor. I have endeavoured to make *Aristotle's* definition of Tragedy intelligible; and I think I have taken the right sense of it, which perplexed us a little last summer. The *Monita, Notæ, &c.* which I have added to the translation, you are to do just what you please with. I wrote the notes in a great hurry this morning; and if they are not sense, or too long, or too short, or too insignificant, alter them to your taste, or destroy them, as you think best."

He had, a little time before this, corrected, and put into proper form, a very useful school-book, called "*Selectæ ex Prefanis Scriptoris Historiæ*," which had been first compiled in *France*. The Prefaces to this work were translated by him.

In 1741, he printed the additional book of the *Dunciad*, very highly to the satisfaction both of the Poet and of his learned Commentator. "I thank you for all your care," says Mr. *Pope* on this occasion.—And Dr. *Warburton** tells him, "I am glad you have been printing for Mr. *Pope*. Don't mention to any, I beg of you, your suspicion about the notes. Mr. *Knapton* has sent me the specimen of the Commentary on the Essay, which I like extremely well. I thank you for your observation on the quotations from the *Optics*. You are certainly right; they should be in *English*. I don't know when I shall be in *London* again: But I have never more pleasure there than when I loll and talk to you at my ease, *de quolibet ente*, in your dining-room. You don't tell me how you like my improvements of the Commentary. Thank you for care of commissions. I am glad the *Dunciad* has such a run. The *Greek*, I know, will be well printed in your edition, notwithstanding the absence of *SCRIBLERUS*."

This was neither the first nor the strongest expression of the regard entertained for Mr. *Bowyer* by Dr. *Warburton*; who had long before told him, "No one's thoughts will have a greater weight with me than your own, in whom I have experienced so much candour, goodness, and learning." It should not be disguised, however, that a difference afterwards arose, in which, as is not uncommon, each party was confident that he was right. Mr. *B.* (who either was, or at least thought himself, slighted)

* In letters (still in MS.) dated 1741.

has not unfrequently remarked, that, after the death of our *English Homer**, the letters of his learned friend "wore a different complexion." But perhaps this may be one of the many instances, which occur through life, of the impropriety of judging for ourselves in cases which affect our interest or our feelings.

In 1743, he was also Editor of the seventh volume of *Dr. Swift's* Miscellanies; an Author with whose writings he had long been peculiarly conversant; many of the Dean's separate tracts having originally passed through his hands, and some of them having been illustrated by his Notes†. This volume is thus introduced: "The following sheets have been collected and published to gratify the wishes of all people of taste, who have not been furnished with the *Dublin* edition of *Dean Swift's* Works. That edition was corrected and revised, as his printer Mr. Faulkner intimates, by some of the Author's friends; or (in another place, perhaps more truly) by the Author himself; an advantage, as that Editor rightly remarks, which the *London* Booksellers could not have. To that *Dublin* edition we are

* Mr. Pope died May 30, 1744.

† This Preface to a posthumous pamphlet of *Dean Swift* was written by Mr. Haughey.

"The following treatise of *Directions to Servants*, was begun some years ago by the Author, who had not leisure to finish and put it into proper order, being engaged in many other works of greater use to his country, as may be seen by most of his writings. But, as the Author's design was to expose the villainies and frauds of servants to their masters and mistresses, we shall make no apology for its publication; but give it our readers in the same manner as we find it in the original, which may be seen in the printer's custody. The few tautologies that occur in the characters left unfinished, will make the reader look upon the whole as a rough draught, with several outlines only drawn. However, that there may appear no daubing or patch-work by other hands, it is thought most advisable to give it in the Author's own words. It is imagined that he intended to make a large volume of this work; but, as time and health would not permit him, the reader may draw, from what is here exhibited, means to detect the many vices and faults to which people in that kind of low life are subject. If gentlemen would seriously consider this work, which is written for their instruction (although ironically), it would make them better economists, and preserve their estates and families from ruin. It may be seen, by some scattered papers (wherein were given hints for a dedication and preface, and a list of all degrees of servants) that the Author intended to have gone through all their characters. This is all that need be said as to this treatise, which can only be looked upon as a fragment."

C

"obliged

" obliged for the following volume, some tracts excepted; such as
 " *A Proposal to Parliament for preventing the Growth of Popery*;
 " *—Free Thoughts on the State of Affairs, 1714*;—*Apology to*
 " *Lady Carteret, for not dining with her Ladyship, &c.*—All
 " which have been universally ascribed to our Author, though
 " the *Irish* Editor has thought proper, or been commanded, to
 " omit them. Many of the following tracts are political, and
 " once made what is called a *noise in the world*; they were uni-
 " versally esteemed, even by those of the opposite party, parti-
 " cularly that of the Conduct of the Allies, which will remain
 " for ever a light into the affairs then transacting in *Europe*; an
 " era not the least remarkable in history. It must be acceptable
 " to the possessors of *Gulliver's Travels*, to have an opportunity
 " to correct the text by our comparison of the *Dublin* edition
 " with those of *London*, which is to be found at the end of this
 " volume. It is surprising, that any one could have been so stu-
 " pid as to interpolate any production of this inimitable writer.
 " The papers wrote by our author in the *Examiner* (which com-
 " mence at N^o 13, and end at 44) gave, at the time of pub-
 " lication, a general pleasure or pain, satisfaction or disquiet,
 " as people were inclined. A spirit of liberty diffuses itself
 " through all his writings, and proves him, as the *Dublin* Editor
 " has it, "an enemy to tyranny and oppression in any shape
 " whatever." These volumes, with those already published in this
 " kingdom, make a complete collection of all his works."

Mr. *Markland*, in a letter dated *Apr. 17, 1744*, tells Mr. *Bowyer*, "Mr. *Clarke* sent me Dr. *Taylor's* present* ; wherein I
 " did not expect to meet with any notes under my own name;
 " and *your pamphlet*, in which I think I clearly see several
 " things that are certainly the Bishop's, and several that are
 " certainly not so." What this pamphlet was, is now un-
 " known. He is supposed to have written a small one that year on
 " the present state of *Europe*;" taken principally from *Pufendorf*.

In 1746, he published "The Life of the Emperor *Julian*,"
 translated from the *French* of M. *Bleterie*, and improved with
 twelve pages of curious notes, by himself, Mr. *Clarke*, and others,
 and a genealogical table. This translation was made under his im-
 mediate inspection †. His advertisement is here exhibited :

" The

* Probably the "Marmor Sandvicense."

† It appears, by the following letter of Mr. *Clarke's*, to have been trans-
 lated by *women*; but revised by Mr. *Bowyer*, and perhaps by Mr. *Markland*
 and Mr. *Clarke*:

" DEAR

" The following piece was recommended to me by an eminent Writer *, who has had the good fortune to please the world ; and is therefore best entitled to judge of its taste. I found it, in many respects, agreeable to my own. By authority therefore and inclination I was led to communicate it to the public. It appears, perhaps, under some disadvantage, because the Author has not thought proper to put his name to it ; which has precluded the Editor likewise from the pleasure of adding his, being obliged not to come behind his *French* original in point of delicacy. I trust it to make its way in the world by its own merit, without any other recommendation. That the *English* edition, however, might receive some advantage, I have added a *plate of coins*, and *some notes*, to illustrate the history, sometimes perhaps to bring in fresh matter to it. Those who have no relish for the knowledge of medals, will find themselves interested enough in the narrative, and may leave the showy part of the entertainment to other readers.

" DEAR SIR,

" I like your specimen of *Julian* very well, and fancy it will answer your purpose ; not indeed so well as Tar-water, but better than any other holy water you could give us. I suppose you don't finish your sheets off, till Mr. Markland has read them. It is worth while to stay for their return ; for he sweeps all at a single reading, and can tell by memory, whether *Ablarius* or *Ablavius* is the true name of a Consul that scarce any body ever heard of. You must take care that your *fair translators* don't keep rather too close to the *French* ; it is pardonable in their sex, but will not pass so well in yours ; though I saw little to complain of. The *French* spelling of the proper names *they* must always follow. They have too, *Master of Julian*, for what is easier with us, *Julian's Master* ; and in another place, to employ in doing good *that liberty* ; more expressive, *both the liberty*, &c. But these are trifles. I fancy that most of the difficulties you find in medals are of the Antiquaries' own making, in laying down general rules, which are precarious. *Cæsars* were sometimes sent into provinces, as *Julian* was, with full powers ; and the mints in those provinces might compliment them with the diadem, as knowing it would not displease the Emperor. In others, the same person might go without it. F. *Joubert* seems to be clear in this : " On feroit voir des simples *Cæsars* couronnez de laurier, ou parez de diademe—on montrait avec la meme facilité plusieurs medailles des Empereurs—ou leur tete se trouve toute nue." What will you think then of *Valesius's* assertion of *never* appearing with a coronet ? This must be for the sake of an hypothesis ; unless he had seen all the medals of *Julian*, there is no asserting it."

* Supposed to be the masterly writer of a Discourse, published in 1750, under the title of "*Julian*."

" The motives which led *Julian* to quit the Christian reli-
 " gion will be always matter of enquiry; for one Apostate upon
 " principle raises our speculation more than thousands without
 " principle, or against principle. Among other reasons which
 " arise from a view of his life, I would suggest, the early pre-
 " judices he must have conceived against the cruelty of *Constan-*
 " *tius*; the reigning vice, I may say, of that family. We imbibe
 " in our youth the principles of our guardians in proportion only
 " to our veneration for them. Perhaps our own queen *Mary's*
 " attachment to popery might be accounted for from a like
 " cause; a short reign, like *Julian's*—and Christianity, as the
 " Reformation, first established by a long reign, recovered the
 " faster for a little opposition to it. But I will detain the reader
 " no longer from the history, and his own reflections."

The peruser of these Anecdotes will excuse the insertion of a
 letter sent by Mr. *Bowyer* on this occasion to *The London*
Courant :

" It is one of the hardest things in nature to give an enemy
 " the praise which is due to him. I was led into this reflection
 " on a double account, from reading a most entertaining piece,
 " "The Life of the Emperor *Julian*;" the Author of it a *French-*
 " *man*; the Subject, an Apostate from the Christian Religion.
 " A Writer of our own had heretofore attempted somewhat of the
 " same kind, the celebrated Mr. *Johnson* *, a man of wit, and
 " a sprightly controversialist. But very different talents are re-
 " quisite to make a good Historian: an extensive view of the
 " times he writes of; a methodical disposition of his work; a
 " clear narration of facts, varied according to the different scenes
 " that occur in it, and carried on throughout with a politeness
 " becoming an attendant on a Prince; and, above all, a true
 " knowledge of human nature, which traces out the springs of
 " action, whether actuated by prejudice, passion, or policy, are
 " qualities which the *English* Writer wanted, and so remarkably
 " distinguish the *French*, that a man would scarce think he was
 " reading the same period of time in both. Then for the sub-
 " ject, the very name of an Apostate carries with it so frightful
 " an idea, that we think it is inconsistent with every virtue, and
 " presently conclude, that the man who has deserted Christia-

* Chaplain to Lord *Ruffel*, in the time of *Charles II.*

" nity, has abandoned humanity likewise. Others take a con-
 " trary turn: and, having found a Prince of distinguished sense,
 " whose mind was not open to the conviction of revelation,
 " magnify every excellence in him, to the discouragement of
 " *that*. Both extremes this Author hath happily avoided. The
 " Reader will find here an agreeable contrast of very different
 " properties; an Emperor and a Philosopher, intrepid in war,
 " and yet superstitiously fearful of omens; credulous, and yet
 " an infidel; persuaded of the truth of miracles, and yet re-
 " jecting the evidence of them; a hero, and yet a bigot in re-
 " ligion; and in that too of forbearing principles, and yet intent
 " upon establishing his own: a rational enquirer, and yet de-
 " voted to priests and sophists: a satirist, and yet good-natured:
 " in short, an assemblage (as the Author expresses it) of eminent
 " qualities ill sorted, which, with the variety of incidents and
 " advantages that attended him, give the history of his Life,
 " founded on the strictest truth, all the surprize of fiction."

The 21st of *August*, 1747, Mr. *Bowyer* a second time entered
 into the marriage-state, with Mrs. *Elizabeth Bill*, a most benevo-
 lent and worthy woman, by whom he had no children.

In 1749, he printed " the Songs in *Jack the Giant Queller*,"
 a dramatic piece by *Henry Brooke*. What connexion this could
 possibly have with the dispute between Dr. *Burton* of *Eaton*
 and Dr. *King* of *St. Mary Hall* (occasioned by the "Remarks" *
 of the former on the *Latinity* of a well-known "Oration †" of the
 latter) cannot now be divined. But he had afterwards the ho-
 nour of sharing with Dr. *Burton* in the invectives most libe-
 rally bestowed by Dr. *King*, in his "Elogium famæ inserviens
 " *Jacci Etonensis*, five Gigantis; or, the Praises of *Jack of Eaton*,
 " commonly called *Jack the Giant*: collected into *English*
 " metre, after the manner of *Thomas Sternhold*, *John Hopkins*,
 " *John Burton*, and others. To which is added, a Dissertation
 " on the *Burtonian Style*. By a Master of Arts, 1750."

The illiberality which generally attends a controversy of this
 kind, and which, from the stanza quoted below, it will be seen
 the present had its full share of, is certain (after the warmth

* "Remarks on Dr. *King's* Speech before the University of *Oxford*, at
 " the Dedication of Dr. *Radcliff's* Library, on the 13th of *April*, 1749. By
 " *Philoleuthernus Londinensis*."

† "Oratio in Theatro *Seldoniano*, habita idibus *Aprilis*, MDCCXLIX, die
 " dedicationis Bibliothecæ *Radcliviana*."

which produced it ceases) to sink, and very properly, the whole into oblivion. Let any reader peruse the following stanza, which is here given only to introduce Mr. Bowyer's defence, and afterwards determine whether Dr. King was defensible in suffering such lines as the following to fall from his pen :

" Some, loudly as the nightbirds screech,

" Profess dislike ; some hint it ;

" And little Bowyer damns the speech,

" Because he did not print it."

" Be it known (says Mr. B.) that, for having hesitated in private conversation, and with the greatest deference, some doubt concerning the Latinity of an eminent Orator and Poet, I have felt the effects of his double talent of fiction and colouring, and have been thus figured and disfigured by his magisterial hand ; *A little man, but of great sufficiency* ;—as soon as Dr. King's speech was published, took ALL OCCASIONS to abuse the Doctor—Is it not in the power, he goes on, of a scavenger or chimney-sweeper, as you pass by him in the streets, to spoil your cloaths * ? Yes, against the laws of decency and good-manners. But, within these bounds, in the republic of letters we are all *CAPITE censi*, and need no other qualification to give a vote. I say, within the laws of decency ; for he has shewn, that barbarity is not confined to bad Latin, and, I hope, not annexed to any particular profession. I will still then presume to be an advocate for freedom, while he is restless for dominion, crying out,

" *Quid domini faciant, audent si talia fures ?*

" In English thus,

" *Gods ! such enormity for vengeance calls,*

" *If Printers dare to censure Principals !*"

The above-cited remarks of Mr. Bowyer were intended for the conclusion of his preface to *Montesquieu's " Reflexions, &c."* but were omitted in consequence of this hint from Mr. Clarke :

" DEAR SIR,

Aug. 29, 1751.

" You seem to ask what is the rule of prudence to a man of business in points of resentment. Recluses are no casuists in such cases : your men of business are the best judges : for my

* The words in *Italics* are literally quoted from Dr. King's Notes.

" part,

" part, I think, very few things are worth resenting; either the
 " person or the insult makes them contemptible; and yet every
 " person who offers a public outrage deserves correction; and it
 " is necessary to make some examples for the sake of the public,
 " and treat them as you do other criminals. I should probably
 " think Dr. King a person that deserved no quarter; though I
 " am not very much pleased with the last leaf of your preface:
 " I should either suppress or alter it. The terms *hesitate, pri-
 " vate conversation, greatest deference*, look as if you set about
 " this business of self-defence with some sort of diffidence. Make
 " no apologies, and enter into no particulars. I should be for
 " new casting the whole from the middle of page xxxiv. and
 " draw the Baron's character for humanity and learning to as
 " much advantage as I could; and then contrast it with Dr.
 " King's—as the very reverse—without mentioning your case at
 " all."

" In 1750, a preface by way of critical dissertation, and some
 " valuable notes *, were annexed by Mr. Bowyer to "*Lud. Kusterus*
 " *de vero Ufu Verborum Mediorum, eorumque Differentiâ à Ver-
 " bis Activis & Passivis.*" A new edition of this Work, with some
 " further improvements, appeared in 1773. The Dissertation was
 " likewise adopted by Mr. Holwell, in 1766, in his curious edition
 " of "*Selecti Dionysii Halicarnassensis de Priscis Scriptoribus Trac-
 " tatus Græci & Latini*," with this polite acknowledgement:
 " Hanc Dissertationem sume L. Kusteri de vero Ufu Verborum
 " Mediorum, &c. edit. 1750, præfixit Guil. Bowyer, Typo-
 " graphus. Eadem, auctior quidem, ut hanc nostram Select.
 " *Dion. Hal.* Tractat. editionem ornaret, impetravi quo nomine
 " Viro, optimè de republicâ literariâ merito, gratias ago."

" About the same time Mr. Bowyer wrote a *Latin* Preface to the
 " *Veteres Poetæ citati ad Patris Philippi Labbei de anapitum*
 " *Græcarum Vocalium in prioribus Syllabis Mensurâ* (ubi con-
 " firmanda esset) confirmandum Sententiam. Necnon ad indi-
 " candam quibus Vocibus licet corripere Vocale longam ante
 " alteram in eadem Dictione. Opera & Curâ Edwardi Leedes,
 " in Scholâ *Buriensi* ad acuendos Adolescentium Animos, erga
 " Poeseos Studium (cum ipse Poëta non sit) Cotis Vice fun-
 " gentis."

* Mr. Markland, in a letter, dated Oct. 21, 1749, says, "The specimen
 " of Kuster I like very well, and your Annotations; in which I have taken
 " the liberty to fill up some of the Abbreviations, to which I am a great
 " enemy, as causing obscurity."

In 1750 also, having been employed to print an edition of Col. *Bladen's* translation of *Cæsar's* Commentaries; that work received considerable improvements at his hands, and the addition of such notes in it as are signed *Tyrock*. The subsequent editions of this work were, in a very censurable (and, in the opinion of many, even in an unjust) manner, printed by another person, in Mr. *Bowyer's* life-time; and the Notes which he added, in violation of all decency and propriety, still retained the same signature; a circumstance which he always mentioned with no small degree of dissatisfaction.

In 1751, he wrote a long preface to *Montesquieu's* "Reflexions on the Causes of the Rise and Fall of the *Roman* Empire;" translated the Dialogue between *Sylla* and *Socrates*; made several corrections to the work, from the Baron's "Esprit des Loix;" and improved it with his own notes. A new edition, with many new notes, was printed in 1759.

In the same year, he gave to the publick the first translation which was made of *Rousseau's* paradoxical Prize Oration. It was printed under the title of "The Discourse which carried the Premium at the Academy of *Dijon* in 1750. On this Question proposed by the said Academy, Whether the re-establishment of arts and sciences has contributed to the refinement of manners?"

On the publication of the third edition of Lord *Orrery's* "Remarks on the Life and Writings of Dr. *Swift*," in 1752, he wrote and printed, but never published, "Two Letters from Dr. Bentley in the Shades below, to Lord *Orrery* in a Land of Thick Darkness." The notes signed *B.* in the ninth quarto volume of *Swift's* works are extracted from these letters.

In 1753, when the nation was in a ferment at the indulgence proposed to be granted to the *Jews*, he published, in 4to, "Remarks on a Speech made in Common Council, on the Bill for permitting Persons professing the *Jewish* Religion to be naturalized, so far as Prophecies are supposed to be affected by it." The design of this sensible little tract was to shew, that, whatever political reasons might be adduced against the Bill, Christianity was in no degree prejudiced by the intended alteration. It was written with spirit, and well received by those who had got the better of narrow prejudices.

Some of his notes were annexed that year to "A Journal from *Grand Cairo* to *Mount Sinai* and back again, translated from a manu-

" a manuscript written by the Prefetto of *Egypt*, in company
 " with some missionaries *de propagandâ fide* at *Grand Cairo* :
 " To which are added, Remarks on the Origin of Hieroglyphics,
 " and the Mythology of the ancient Heathens. Dedicated to
 " the Society of Antiquaries, *London*. By the Right Rev. Robert
 " [Glaxton] Lord Bishop of *Clogher*." This very learned prelate
 very highly esteemed the friendship of Mr. Bowyer, honoured
 him with a regular and not unfrequent correspondence, and pre-
 sented him with the copy-right of all his valuable writings.

In 1754, with a view to exonerate himself from fatigue, he
 entered into partnership with a relation; in which some disagree-
 ments arising, it was dissolved in 1757, and he resumed the
 active part of business.

In 1760 he superintended a second edition of Mr. *Arnald's*
 " Commentary on the Book of Wisdom;" and enriched it with
 the remarks of Mr. *Markland*; of which let us take his own
 account: " In this edition, the reader will observe that the many
 " additions communicated to the author by a very learned friend*
 " are included in hooks, which he designed to have melted
 " down into the body of his work, and to have acknowledged,
 " no doubt, his obligations to the person that sent them. But
 " he had executed this design in part only, the observations being
 " transcribed no further than Chap. IX. and the original copy
 " of them not found among his papers. This loss has, by good
 " fortune, been supplied by another friend †, through whose
 " hands the observations were transmitted to him, and who was
 " indulged the liberty of taking a copy of them for himself;
 " from whence they are now given to the publick. They correct
 " often mistakes of the author; which it was thought proper to
 " continue as he left them, that the reader might the better
 " judge of the force of the remarks, and that a liberty might
 " not be taken after his death, which himself only, while alive,
 " had a right to make use of."

It was a peculiarity, if it might be so called, in the character of
 Mr. *Bowyer*, that his engagements as a man of business never
 were sufficient to divest him of those sensibilities, which men
 conscious of their superiority in respect to literary abilities some-
 times experience to be not among the blessings of a learned
 education. As he knew himself the first in his profession, he dis-

* Mr. *Markland*.

† Mr. *Bowyer*.

dained the servility of solicitation : but, when he saw himself neglected, or another preferred where friendship gave him a claim, he did not suppress the impulses of resentment, which he felt on such occasions. Many instances of this might be produced. They did not, however, arise from avarice ; nor was the article of profit that which acted with the greatest force upon him. The most trifling consideration would produce as warm an expostulation as one of the greatest. As an instance, the following might be produced, to shew how sensibly he felt himself hurt on such an occasion.

His friend the Dean of *Bristol* (Dr. *Squire*) having preached before the House of Commons, on the General Fast-day, *Feb. 13, 1761*; Mr. *Bowyer* of course expected to print the Sermon. The profit attending such a small article, it will be easily supposed, could be no material object. But the indelicacy of the transaction drew from him the following expostulatory epistle :

“ REV. SIR,

“ I understand I am not to have the favour of printing your
“ Sermon ; which gives me reason to fear that I have behaved in
“ such a manner as to forfeit a friendship which was founded on
“ a natural, I may say, a *trading* principle, considering I was a
“ pupil of Dr. *Newcome's*. Your tutor, say my brethren, must
“ have a mean opinion of you, since he could not make a
“ printer of you fit to print for himself * or his nephew. Let
“ me know wherein I have offended, that I may endeavour to
“ make myself more acceptable to the world, the college, or at
“ least to you, Sir ; who am,

“ Your most humble servant,

“ W. BOWYER.”

This was not the only instance in which he strongly expressed his feelings at what he thought a slight put upon him from a quarter where he imagined he had a natural claim to favour. In a letter, dated *Jan. 11, 1767*, to a living Dignitary of the Church, speaking of *Cambridge*, he says, “ My father (good
“ man!) sent me thither, to qualify me, by a new kind of ex-
“ periment, for a printer. But it served only in trade to expose
“ me to more affronts, and to give me a keener sensibility of

“ Dr. *Newcome* printed once a Sermon ; and carried it to *Cambridge*,
“ because he could not print it in *London* decently unless with *W. B.*”

“ them.

"them. Time and old age are at last our best instructors; and
 "I should have made an ill use of the documents of nature, if
 "I had not learnt to take consolation from my approach to that
 "state where the great and little will be equal."

Let us now turn to a more pleasing trait in the character of
 Mr. Bowyer, by perusing a letter dictated at once by gratitude
 and manly liberality of sentiment:

"To the Right Hon. the Earl of MACCLESFIELD.

"MY LORD,

"I have no pretence to your Lordship's patronage, but from
 "what your noble father shewed to mine; which I have presumed
 "to perpetuate by the inclosed letter*, repositd, I suppose, in
 "the

* The *Saxon* types, which were used in printing *St. Gregory's Homily*,
 having been burnt in the fire which consumed Mr. Bowyer's house and
 all his printing materials, Lord Chief Justice Parker was so munificently
 indulgent, as to be at the expence of cutting a new *Saxon* type for Mrs.
Elford's Saxon Grammar, from *fac similes* by Mrs. *Elford*, the punches and
 matrices of which Mr. Bowyer's son presented, by the hands of *Edward
 Rowe-Morris*, esq; to the University of Oxford, with the following letter:

"To *Edward Rowe-Morris*, Esq; at Low Layton.

"SIR,

"I make bold to transmit to Oxford, through your hands, the *Saxon*
 "punches and matrices, which you was pleased to intimate would not be
 "unacceptable to that learned body. It would be a great satisfaction to
 "me, if I could by this means perpetuate the munificence of the noble
 "Donor, to whom I am originally indebted for them, the late Lord Chief
 "Justice Parker, afterwards Earl of *Macclesfield*, who, among the nume-
 "rous benefactors which my father met with, after his house was burnt in
 "1712-13, was so good as to procure those types to be cut, to enable him
 "to print Mrs. *Elford's Saxon Grammar*. England had not then the advan-
 "tage of such an artist in letter-cutting as has since arisen**; and it is to
 "be lamented, that the execution of these is not equal to the intention of
 "the Donor; I now add, to the place in which they are to be repositd.
 "However, I esteem it a peculiar happiness, that as my father received
 "them from a great patron of learning, his son consigns them to the greatest
 "seminary of it, and so, Sir,

"Your most obliged friend,

Dec. 4, 1733:

"and humble servant,

"W. BOWYER."

See the *Archæologia Antiq.* Soc. vol. I. p. xxvii.—Among the specimens
 of the University types, these *Saxon* characters are preserved, under the fol-

** The elder Mr. *Coffin*, who died Jan. 22, 1766, aged 74.—It is but common
 justice to a most ingenious artist, to mention in this place the name of Mr. *Joseph
 Jackson*, as a letter-founder, trained up under the auspices, and pursuing with unre-
 mitted industry and success the steps, of his excellent instructor,

lowing

" the University of *Oxford*. I little thought of making it a step
 " to introduce myself to your Lordship; but Mr. *Richardson's*
 " death, which you will see mentioned in the public papers, has
 " incited me to hope for that family friendship renewed to me in
 " my declining years, which filled me with sentiments of grati-
 " tude in my childhood; and that I may have the honour of
 " being recommended by your Lordship to print for the Royal
 " Society, if that office shall be removed to any other printing-
 " house. But, whatever shall be the event, your Lordship will
 " pardon me in taking this opportunity of unburthening my
 " heart of those sensations which time cannot efface; and which
 " will remain while I shall be able to subscribe myself,

" Your Lordship's

July 4, 1761.

" most dutiful

" and obedient humble servant,

" W. BOWYER."

The application was successful. The noble Lord condescended to patronize a son of the printer his father had generously contributed to support; and recommended him effectually to the very learned Society over which he with so much dignity presided. And Mr. *Bowyer* had the happiness of continuing in that employment till his death, under the friendship and patronage of five successive presidents.

In 1761, appeared, " Verses on the Coronation of their late
 " Majesties King *George II.* and Queen *Caroline*, October 4, 1727;
 " spoken by the scholars of *Westminster-school* (some of them
 " now the ornaments of the nation), on January 15 following,

following title: " *Characteres Anglo-Saxonici, per eruditam feminam Eliza-*
 " *abeth ad fidem codd. missi delineati: quorum tam instrumentis euforis*
 " *quam matricibus donata est Univ. 1753.*—*Cusoria majuscula, 44; Ma-*
 " *trices majusculæ, 44.*—*Cusoria minuscula, 17; Matrices minusculæ, 39.*"
 These, as we learn by a letter from *Oxford*, dated July 14, 1778, " are
 " kept together in a small neat box, and were acknowledged by Dr. *Browne*,
 " *Univ. Coll.* who was Vice Chancellor in 1753." By whatever accident it
 happened, the acknowledgement never reached Mr. *Bowyer*; and there
 must be some mistake in the date of the year, as the matrices were not de-
 posited in *Oxford* till Oct. 6, 1764, when Dr. *Browne* was quite inattentive
 to business, for he died in that last year of his office.—Too much has per-
 haps already been said on an article apparently of little consequence; but,
 as Mr. *B.* observed on this occasion, " though a trifle in itself, it ceased
 " to be so when the University did him the honour of accepting it."

" being

" being the day of the inauguration of Queen *Elizabeth* their
 " foundress; with a translation of all the *Latin* copies: the whole
 " placed in the order of the transactions of that important day.
 " Adorned with the coronation medals of the Royal Pair, and a
 " bust of our present King. To which is subjoined, the Cere-
 " monial of the august procession, very proper to be compared
 " with the approaching one*; and a catalogue of the coronation
 " medals of the kings and queens of *England*.† The original
 " part of this pamphlet was entirely Mr. *Bowyer's*; the *Latin*
 " verses were translated, partly by him, but principally by Mr.
 " *J. Nichols*. Their Advertisement to this pamphlet is a curiosity:
 " Two things, we trust, the great names subscribed to these epi-
 " grams will pardon; the one, that we have not observed the
 " method in which they were delivered; which being in an *ex-*
 " *tempore* manner, a neglect of order was then becoming; but,
 " as they describe a ceremony long since past, and now to be
 " revived, it was more natural to place them in the order of the
 " procession, that the reader might see the business of the day
 " gradually open before him, and be again a spectator at it. He
 " will recall the solicitude of *Chloe*, rising by candle-light; the
 " laying aside of the hoops, and putting on favours; the eager
 " expectation of the people; the opening of the procession with
 " the herb-woman; the importance of the beadle of *Westminster*,
 " by the help of his staff; kettle-drums, organ-blowers, beef-
 " eaters; the charms of peeresses, and maids of honour; stelli-
 " tious dukes; the dazzling profusion of sincere gold and real
 " diamonds; the attractive majesty of Queen *Caroline*; the
 " strength of *British* forces, and the antiquity of the *English*
 " monarchy; the bishop bearing the treasure of divine truths;
 " the King, the ensigns of royalty; the Queen, of love and har-
 " mony; the cross on his crown, and the spur on his feet; the
 " venerable chair, brought from *Scotland*, A. D. 1296; the
 " people's concern for the absence of prince *Frederick*, and gra-
 " titude for the presence of duke *William*; the act of crowning
 " proclaimed by cannons, and beaming forth with the concen-
 " tered blaze of coronets; the medals of the king and queen,
 " ennobled less from their metal than their impresses; the toll of

* That of their present majesties.

† Some account of this pamphlet was given, by Mr. *Bowyer*, in *Gent. Mag.* 1761, p. 411.

“ the day ; the narrowness of the hall ; the leveling of the law
 “ courts ; the king’s majestic seat between them ; the sumptuousness of the present tables, and the frugality of the ancient ;
 “ the small-beer fee ; the tribute of three maple cups ; the pyramids of sweetmeats ; the terror of the champion ; the ill-timed
 “ slumber of an over-tired spectator ; the candles touched into
 “ light ; the rapine of the vulgar ; no abatement of the universal
 “ joy from any unhappy accident ; the king, in his turn, a partaker of the lord mayor’s pomp, having first contemplated it
 “ in the peaceful mansion of a Quaker, &c. On each particular
 “ the reader will find some reflexion, which will prevent his
 “ being, in the ensuing procession, an unimproved spectator.

“ For another particular we have more reason to apologize,
 “ that, though in the translations [which are distinguished by
 “ being included in crotchets] we have in general kept close to
 “ the originals, yet in some few instances we have deviated from
 “ them, when we thought the point of the epigram might be
 “ somewhat sharpened, without any injury to the scope of it.
 “ This we have sparingly done, and, whenever we have taken that
 “ liberty, have marked it out by *Italic* characters.

“ As the poets here have been prophets, the reader will
 “ with pleasure compare the events with their predictions. We
 “ have seen our venerable Monarch go down to the grave full of
 “ years and honours ; and though it was some abatement to the
 “ comfort of them, that his laurels were earned with toil amidst
 “ destructive wars, we may promise ourselves that Heaven hath
 “ reserved the blessings, which were wanting to him, to be accumulated upon his Grandson ; in whom the hearts of his subjects
 “ are united, beyond what history can parallel, or poetry itself
 “ can paint. Duty and affection in all orders of men seem to
 “ flow in such uninterrupted streams, that he will want but the
 “ exercise of one of his royal virtues, that of forgiveness.”

Bp. Warburton’s “ Divine Legation” (a work of some consequence in the Typographical Annals of Mr. Bowyer) appears by the very learned Prelate’s Letters * to have received no small advantage

* “ March 3, 1739. I esteem myself exceeding happy in such a learned
 “ Printer, but much more in so candid a friend. Your very ingenious
 “ observations are, and always will be, an extreme pleasure to me.”—
 “ Mr. B. himself says, in one of the letters above alluded to, “ The first, second, and third volumes of your Divine Legation, from the year 1737,
 “ were printed under my inspection only, without your Lordship reading
 “ a single

advantage from his corrections; and this even in an edition which (in the course of Mr. B's first partnership) was of necessity given to another press.—In 1761 he was employed to print his Lordship's "Doctrine of Grace," a work which, as might have been expected, sold rapidly. A second edition being soon wanted, and Mr. B. not having been intrusted with the care of it, he thought it necessary to vindicate himself from reflections that might arise on this apparent change in his Patron's sentiments. With this view, he prepared a series of letters to the Bishop; of which, together with a few he had formerly received from that truly great Writer, he afterwards printed only *twelve copies*. But on this subject it is the more unnecessary to enlarge, as we can assert, on the best authority, that, notwithstanding any little altercations that had happened, Bp. Warburton always continued to retain a sincere regard for Mr. Bowyer.

In 1762, he was Editor of the Thirteenth and Fourteenth octavo volumes of Dr. Swift's Works. These volumes his own advertisement will account for:

" The pleasure Dean Swift's Works have already afforded will
 " be a sufficient apology for communicating to the Reader,
 " though somewhat out of season, these additional volumes; who
 " will be less displeased that they have been so long suppressed,
 " than thankful that they are now at last published. We have
 " no occasion to apologize for the pieces themselves; for as they
 " have all the internal marks of genuineness, so, by their further
 " opening the Author's private correspondence, they display
 " the goodness of his heart, no less than the never-ceasing sallies
 " of his wit. His answer to *The Rights of the Christian Church*
 " is a remarkable instance of both; which, though unfinished,
 " and but the slight proflusions of his strength, shew how sincere,
 " how able a champion he was of religion and the church.
 " So soon as these were printed in *Dublin*, in a new edition of
 " the Dean's works, it was a justice due to them to select them
 " thence, to complete the *London* edition. Like the Author,
 " though they owe their birth to *Ireland*, they will feel their

" a single proof. Fame followed them as fast as you could wish; and I
 " do not know that you felt any abatement of it from the inaccuracy of
 " the Printer. I pretend not to be faultless; but the editions were printed
 " as correctly, I hope, as books usually are."

" maturity

" maturity in *England*"; and each nation will contend which shall
 " receive them with greater ardour. In the last volume is added,
 " an Index to ALL the Works; wherein are ranged the *bons*
 " *mois* scattered throughout them under the article SWIFTIANA,
 " by which their brightness is collected, as it were, into a *focus*,
 " and they are placed in such open day, that they are secured, for
 " the future, from the petty larceny of meaner wits.
 " *London, Aug. 14, 1763.*"

In 1763, he published an excellent edition of the *Greek Testament*, in 2 volumes, 8mo. under the title of "*Novum Testamentum Græcum, ad fidem Græcorum solum Codicum MSS, nunc primum impressum, ad stipulante Joanne Jacobo Wettsteinio, juxta sectiones Jo. Alberti Bengelii divisum; & novâ Interpunctione sæpius illustratum. Accessere in altero volumine Eminentiores Conjecturales Virorum doctorum undecumque collectæ.*" This edition was sold with great rapidity †; though

• The following Epigram was occasioned by this thought:

" Which gave the *DRAPER* Birth two Realms contend;
 " And each asserts her Poet, Patriot, Friend;
 " Her Mitre jealous *BRITAIN* may deny;
 " That *LOSS* *IRANIA*'s Laurel shall supply;
 " Through *Life*'s low Vale, she, grateful, gave him Bread;
 " Her vocal Stones shall vindicate him dead."

B. N.

† Mr. Markland, April 11, 1763, tells him, " I am really glad that your
 " N. T. is likely to turn out so much better than you expected: which, I
 " can tell you, is owing to the notes being written in *English*. And if the
 " Notes on this Play [the *Suppl. Mus.*] had been written in that language,
 " I do not doubt but twice the number would have been sold; for I think
 " it is plain that we are hastening to the setting aside *Latin* and *Greek*;
 " and if the setting them aside in our Schools, for *English*, *French*, *Italian*,
 " *Spanish*, &c. were to come to the vote, I fancy the moderns would carry
 " it by a great majority.—I shall not be surprized or sorry to hear that you
 " differed with the person you mention, rather than be instrumental in ex-
 " posing him. On the contrary, I shall think you have acted very honour-
 " ably in so doing. The plea, of another person's undertaking it if you do
 " not, is nothing to you. You mention a *Dedication*, but do not say of
 " *what*; I hope not of the *Muse*—which would be ridiculous in one
 " of his degree and station, at any age; but at 80 is intolerably absurd.
 " It would be very fortunate for him, if, when you refuse to be concerned
 " in it, you would plainly and honestly tell him the reason. I know he
 " would like it. Probably he does not think of that circumstance, *non decet*.
 " I have known him desist from improper things for a single hint. Heaven
 " preserve us from hobby-horses at eighty!"

announced

announced to the publick in a light, perhaps, not the most captivating to a purchaser; to the advertisements in the public papers. Mr. Bowyer having subjoined a somewhat singular remark; "This edition boasts neither elegance of type nor paper, but trusts to other merits."

In 1765, at the request of the munificent Mr. *Hellis*, he wrote the short *Latin* preface to "*Joannis Wallisi Grammatica Linguae Anglicanae*," and a larger *English* Preface, intended for that work, but which still remains unprinted. He sent some copies of this book to Mr. *Clarke* when abroad, to be given to the *Spanish* Literati.

In consequence of overtures from a few respectable friends at *Cambridge*, he had some inclination, towards the latter end of 1765, to have undertaken the management of the University Press, by purchasing a lease of their exclusive privileges; and actually went thither for that purpose. The treaty, however, was fruitless; and he did not much regret the disappointment. Mr. *Clarke*, Sept. 4, 1765, wrote thus upon this subject: "What to say about the University affair, I do not well know—it is certain that you have more business already than does you good; and such a fortune as will answer all the rational purposes of life, that you need not wish for more. If you were younger, and ambitious of raising a greater fortune, I could tell what to say. But there are certainly two objects in view in this proposal, which, if these objections did not lie in the way, would to me be great inducements. The thoughts of governing the booksellers, either for gain or glory, would give me a greater pleasure, than any other object in trade. In that respect, I think just as you do. But *Tanti non est*; the laurel is scarce worth the labour. Happiness and ease are greater acquisitions than victory.—Besides, the honour of putting the University in a way to get something besides credit, would be a means of enrolling you among her Benefactors; and that not for a temporary, but a perpetual Donation.—But you had better relinquish all these honours, unless you quit business, and think of doing nothing else."

Mr. *Markland*, to whom he communicated what had passed, tells him, "The subject of your journey to *Cambridge* I am no judge at all of; but I understand your practical inference at last, which says, that you are too old to live out a lease: and I think you conclude right, it not being worth while to put out to sea again, not even if you were sure of making a prosperous voyage. I have received another letter from Mr. —, who tells me that he intends to lay out fifty pounds in books,

" and desires me to recommend to him fifty pounds worth of
 " Theology and Classics. I have thought of it, and find myself
 " in the condition of *Simonides*, when he was asked about the
 " Dely, desiring more time to consider of it. But I believe I
 " shall not answer it at all; for it seems to me as difficult as to
 " make a pair of breeches for a man you never saw."

In the beginning of 1766, by engaging in a partnership with Mr. *Nichols*, he again withdrew, in some degree, from that close application, the effects of which he then began to feel. His new associate had been trained by him to the profession, and had been for some years his assistant in the management of business. One of the earliest books which appeared after their connexion was a complete and elegant edition of the Works of Dr. *Harvey*. The liberality with which this publication was conducted by the College of Physicians is a lasting monument of honour to themselves, and to the great author whose invaluable writings were thus collected. The *Medical Transactions* of that respectable Body passed through the same press.

In that year Mr. *Bowyer* wrote an excellent *Latin* Preface to "*Joannis Harduini*, Jesuitæ, ad Censuram Scriptorum Veterum Prolegomena. Juxta Autographum." In this Preface is a distinct account of the nature of the work, as well as of the mode in which it was preserved "in naufragio fortunarum suarum, quod tota familia Jesuitica nuper fecit."—"Hoc vero fragmentum," says Mr. *Bowyer*, "quasi ex undis ereptum, & in manus P. *Vaillant* bibliopolæ traditum, noluit ille orbi literario invidere. Paradoxa enim per se cum novitate sua delectant, tum longe magis *Harduini* artificio exornata, qui tam belle novit dare obscuris nitorem, lucidis umbram, ætæ probabilitatem, omnibus denique speciem, prout velit, & gratiam. Istud, igitur, quicquid est, fideliter imprimendum curavit; autographumque ipsum in *Museo Britannico* reponendum, tanquam votivam tabulam, posteritati consecravit. Paucula hæc, quæ raptim prælibavi, erudito colloquio, quo vir reverendus *Cæsar De Missy* me honestavit, accepta debent referri. Si quid imprudenter dictum sit, meæ tribuendum est insectiæ; si quid quod non displiceat, ejus laudi; qui mox, ut spero, plura super hac re publica luce dignabitur."

Mr. *De Missy's* remarks on that extraordinary production accordingly appeared about the same time, under the title of "*De Joannis Harduini* Jesuitæ Prolegomenis cum Autographo collatis, Epistola quam ad amicissimum virum *Wilhelmum Bowyerum*, iisdem nondum prostantibus, scripserat *Cæsar De Missy*"

" *Missacus* (vulgo *C. De Missy*) Reg. Maj. Brit. à Sacris Gallis
" peragendis."

In 1767 he was appointed to print the Journals of the House of Lords, and the Rolls of Parliament. His obligations to the Earl of *Marchmont*, the noble peer who presided in the Lords Committee on this occasion, is testified in the inscription which he left behind him, to be placed in *Stationers-Hall*.

The want of sufficient room now compelled him, though not without reluctance *, to exchange *White Fryars* for *Red-Lion Passage*; where he opened his new office with the sign of his favourite *Cicero's* head; under which was inscribed, "M. T. CICERO, A QUO PRIMORDIA PRELI," in allusion to the well-known early editions of *Tully's Offices*.

In that year he printed one of the most valuable Antiquarian books that ever appeared in this country, "The Connexion of the *Roman, Saxon, and English* Coins; deducing the Antiquities, Customs, and Manners, of each People to Modern Times; particularly the Origin of Feudal Tenures, and of Parliaments: illustrated throughout with Critical and Historical Remarks on various Authors, both Sacred and Profane. By *William Clarke*, A. M. Chancellor of the Church of *Chichester*, Residentiary of it, and Vicar of *Amport, Hants.*" In the Preface to this Work, Mr. *Clarke* very handsomely acknowledges the assistance received from his friend Mr. *Bowyer*; and, in a private Letter, says, "I am greatly obliged to you for all the trouble you have taken; for every hint, caution, alteration, correction, you have suggested. I believe I shall adopt them all.—That your friend the late Speaker † should give so much attention to these dry disquisitions is more than I could have imagined. I suppose his favourite subject, the House of Commons, excited his curiosity." Some of Mr. *B's* notes are interspersed with the Author's throughout the volume. Part of the Dissertation on the *Roman Sesterce* is his produce.

* As there were few steps of any consequence in which he did not consult Mr. *Markland*, he wrote to him of course on this event, which to him was an important one. "Far from condemning you (says Mr. *M.*) in what you have done as to the printing house, I agree with you entirely, provided you agree with yourself, for, if a man (who is not a madman or an idiot) does not know at our time of life what is proper for him to do, the condition of mortality is certainly on a worse footing than Providence designed it."

† Mr. *Ouseley* perused the work in MS. and honoured Mr. *Clarke* with some useful hints and observations.

tion: and the Index (a peculiarly good one, and on which he not a little prided himself) was drawn up entirely by him. "Of all your talents," says Mr. *Clarke*, "you are a most amazing man at Indexes. What a flag to do you hang out at the stern! You must certainly persuade people that the book overflows with matter, which (to speak the truth) is but thinly spread. But I know all this is fair in trade, and you have a right to expect that the public should purchase freely, when you reduce the whole book into an epitome for their benefit; I shall read the Index with pleasure."

Early in 1768 he received from *New England* the following polite acknowledgement of his abilities and his bounty:

"SIR,

"Cambridge, Decr. 16, 1767.

"The President and Fellows of *Harvard College* in *Cambridge* beg leave to return you their grateful acknowledgements for the valuable donation you have been pleased to make to their library, through the hands of their most worthy friend and generous benefactor *Thomas Hollis, Esq.*

"We have not been strangers to your character as a learned editor, a character by no means common in the present age; and the very accurate editions of many learned authors, which have come abroad into the world under your inspection, assure us of your great merit in that respect.

"It is a particular pleasure to us to mention your very curious edition of the *Greek Testament*, in two volumes, with critical notes, and many happy conjectures, especially as to the punctuation, an affair of the utmost importance as to ascertaining the sense. This work, though small in bulk, we esteem as a rich treasure of sacred learning, and of more intrinsic value than many huge volumes of the commentators.

"We are greatly obliged to you for the favourable sentiments you have been pleased so elegantly to express of our Seminary, in the blank leaf of the New Testament; and we hope it will prove a powerful stimulus to our youth, more and more to deserve so good a character.

"This Society is as yet but in its infant-state; but we trust, that, by the generosity of the benefactors which the Divine Providence is raising up to us, and by the smiles of Heaven upon our endeavours to form the youth here to knowledge

"and

" and virtue, it will every day more effectually answer the important ends of its foundation. We are, with great respect,

" Your most obliged, and humble servants,

" (At the direction and desire of the
" Corporation of *Harvard College*,)

" EDW. HOLYOKE, President.

" Sir, inclosed you have our vote of thanks for your valuable present.

" At a meeting of the President and Fellows of *Harvard College*,
" Dec. 10, 1771.

" VOTE IV. That the thanks of this Corporation be given to
" Mr. *William Bowyer* of *London*, for several valuable books
" sent to *Harvard College*; particularly his late curious Edition of the *Greek Testament*, with learned Notes.

" A true Copy, extr. de Lib. vii. pag. 175.

" Per EDW. HOLYOKE, President.

" Present,

" THE PRESIDENT,

" MR. APPELTON,

" MR. WINTHROP,

" MR. ELIOT,

" MR. COOPER,

" MR. DANFORTH,

" MR. TREASURER."

On the 14th of *January*, 1771, he became a second time a widower, by the death of Mrs. *Bowyer* at the age of 70. Mr. *Clarke*, who had endeavoured to administer consolation to him on a similar occasion near forty years before, again addressed him with tenderness on this event:

" DEAR SIR,

Jan. 18, 1771.

" I find, by the last papers, that you have lost poor Mrs. *Bowyer*. It is very happy for her that she was relieved from that severe trial she had undergone so long. In that weak and painful state, none of her friends could wish her to continue any longer. And I hope, as you must have for some time expected this event, that you will receive this parting summons with due submission. Losing a companion that we have been long used to, must, at our time of life, be a mournful circumstance.

"cumstance. But as you must part at last, your connexions
 "with the world are much lessened by her going first. You have
 "nothing now to do but to make a provision for your son; and
 "keep as much in business only as serves to amuse you, throwing
 "off the great weight of it into other hands. It is a very de-
 "sirable thing to have the world sit easy upon us when we are
 "going to leave it."

A very ingenious "Enquiry into the Value of the Ancient
 "Greek and Roman Money, by *Matthew Raper, Esq. F. R. S.*"
 was printed in the Philosophical Transactions for 1771. This
 respectable gentleman's opinion on these subjects not coinciding
 with those of Mr. *Bowyer*, he printed a little pamphlet, under
 the title of "Remarks occasioned by a late Dissertation on the
 "Greek and Roman Money;" which was intended as an ap-
 pendix to Mr. *Clarke's* book on Coins. The opinions of many
 excellent writers in Germany and France having been ably con-
 troverted in that volume, Mr. *Bowyer* transmitted a copy of it
 to the French King's Library, and inscribed his little Appendix,

"REGI CHRISTIANISSIMO

"GULIELMUS BOWYER, TYPOGRAPHUS ANGLICANUS,

"Judicium ut subeat magis æquum, candidiusve,

"Qut poni potuit commodiore loco?"

It was very much his wish, that the work should be translated
 and reprinted in France; and he took some pains to have it per-
 formed*; but without effect.

In 1772, appeared a new edition, considerably enlarged, of
 the "Conjectures on the New Testament." At the conclusion
 of the Preface, he thus pathetically describes the disorders which
 had been some years undermining his constitution: "It is time for
 "me to withdraw my disabled hand, and to ask pardon of those
 "learned friends whose collections I have purloined. That is
 "the least injury I have done them: I have so unconscionably
 "used the liberty indulged me by one † of them, that to him I
 "can make no apology; except that I need one to my readers,
 "for not making greater use of that indulgence. My imperfec-

* For this purpose a copy was sent to M. *Le Suer*, the elegant translator
 of Dr. *Robertson's* "Charles the Fifth," and of Dr. *Hanuksworth's* "Voyage."

† Mr. *Marland*, whose notes (by his own direction) are distinguished
 by the letter R. To Mr. *Clarke*, Dr. *Owen*, and many other respectable
 names, he acknowledges his obligations in that useful collection.

" tions they will impute to age, and the consequent infirmities
 " of it. Torpid with the palsy, and only quickened by a pain-
 " ful vicissitude of the stone*, I feel the worse side of humanity ;
 " they will have the pleasure of exercising the better side, even
 " of forgiving, which approaches nearest to Divinity."

With a copy of this book the following conciliatory letter
 was sent to Bp. Warburton, who had censured a passage in the
 former edition :

" MY LORD, February, 1773.
 " I beg your acceptance of these *Conjectures* on the N. T.
 " drawn up under all the imperfections of nature ; which your
 " Lordship will perceive by the incorrectness. These both you
 " and I must overlook, as being the will of the Supreme Being.
 " But may I hope you will acquit me for differing from you in
 " some points wherein I fell under your censure ? If I may be
 " allowed to offer my reasons with decency and good-manners, I
 " will take care to offend † no more with the *liberty of prophes-*
 " *ing* ; and am, my Lord,

" Your Lordship's most dutiful

" and obliged humble servant,

" W. B."

In 1773, he published three little tracts, under the title of
 " Select Discourses : 1. Of the Correspondence of the *Hebrew*
 " Months with the *Julian*, from the *Latin* of Professor *Mi-*
 " *chaelis*. 2. Of the Sabbatical Years, from the same. 3. Of the
 " Years of Jubilee ; from an Anonymous Writer, in *Masson's*
 " *Histoire Critique de la Republic des Lettres*."

* A short extract from a friendly letter received by Mr. B. on this occa-
 sion may not be unacceptable : " Mr. N. has transmitted to me your *Con-*
 " *jectures* on the New Testament ; for which very obliging and acceptable
 " proof of your regard, I beg leave to offer you my sincerest thanks. I
 " should have been happy not to have had the melancholy descriptions
 " which you give of your health in your preface, so frequently confirmed
 " by the accounts I have received in *Red Lion Passage*. I hope you will
 " excuse my presuming to wound your *erudite* *aures* with barbarous *Latin* ;
 " and permit me to apply to you what was said of (I think) Bp. Hall :—
 " *Cui nihil inest acris neque acerbum, præter Stranguria Calculique cruciatus.*"
 —Another worthy Friend had some time before applied to him the follow-
 ing quotation : " *Piget me unum tantum eruditum Typographum in Angliâ*
 " *superesse, & illum, annum agentem primum supra sexagesimum.* The
 " words are not mine ; but I sincerely join in the lamentation."

† See Div. Lég. l. vi. § 6. vol. V. p. 304. ed. 1763.

In 1774, he corrected a new edition of *Schrevelius's Greek Lexicon*, and added a considerable number of words collected in the course of his own studies: these are distinguished by an asterisk. The Lexicons of *Hederic* and of *Buxtorf*, the *Latin* ones of *Fuber* * and *Littleton*, and the *English* Dictionary of *Bailey*, were all considerably enlarged by him: these additions are still in MS. His *Greek* and *Latin* Grammars in general, and particularly such of them as he had in common use when at school and at college, are filled with such curious explanatory notes as bear the most convincing marks of consummate critical knowledge in these languages. And that knowledge he applied in a special manner to the advancement of sacred learning. It was his constant custom, in the course of his reading, to note down every thing which he thought might contribute to illustrate any passage of Scripture, especially of the *Greek* Testament. In pursuance of this method, it is hardly to be conceived what a number of useful and curious remarks stand inserted in the margin of his Theological Books, which may greatly contribute to improve future editions. Two books in particular he bestowed much pains upon; viz. *Leigh's* "Critica Sacra," and *Du Gard's* † "Lexicon Græci Testamenti Alphabeticum;" both which he has left behind him accurately corrected and much enlarged. These he often wished, in his later days, he had been able to publish, for the use of Schools, and the benefit of young Students in Divinity. The first of them, full of critical notes, is now in the possession of Dr. Owen; and the latter in the hands of Mr. Nichols.

In 1774 was also published, "The Origin of Printing, in Two Essays. 1, The Substance of Dr. Middleton's Dissertation on the Origin of Printing in *England*. 2. Mr. Meerman's Account of the Invention of the Art at *Harleim*, and its Progress to *Mentz*, with occasional Remarks; and an Appendix." The original idea of this little pamphlet ‡ was Mr. Bowyer's;

* Mr. B. had an intention of republishing this valuable Lexicon in a more commodious manner, by changing its present radical form into an alphabetical one.

† Formerly Master of *Merchant Taylor's School*.

‡ This idea was in part taken up immediately on the publication of Dr. Middleton's tract in 1731; which received the following advertisement from Mr. Bowyer, in *The Grub-Street Journal*, March 20, 1731; the substance of which is preserved in the Notes to "The Origin of Printing."

Howyer's; the completion of it his Partner's. The two learned friends,

"To Mr. Bavius, Secretary to the Society of Orub-street.

"S I R,

"As the numerous writers of your Society are the chief support and ornament of Printing; you must be nearly interested in every circumstance that contributes to the honour of it. I congratulate you therefore upon the advantageous figure which *Caxton* our country-man and fellow-citizen makes in Dr. *Middleton's* Dissertation concerning the origin of this art in *England*. But, good Mr. *Bavius*, is not the old man's authority placed a little too high, when most, if not all, our *English* Chronicles are made to submit to his; and a new era is prescribed to one of our kings by it? Dr. *Middleton* maintains from him, p. 3, that *Edward IV.* was proclaimed in *London* at the end of 1459, according to our computation, on the 4th of *March*, and crowned about the *Midsummer* following (i. e. 1460.) Is not *Caxton*, you'll say, a good evidence of a fact that happened in his own time? May be so: but the good Doctor's Dissertation is even built upon the supposition that the press was not infallible in those days; and might not MCCC LIX, by an easy transposition, escape instead of MCCC LXI. I need not appeal to other contemporary historians, where we are capable of producing demonstration. The first instrument in *Rymer*, under *Edward IV.* begins thus: "*Memorandum, quod die Martis decimo die Martii anno regni regis Edwardi primo.*" Now in the year 1460-1, the tenth of *March* fell on a *Tuesday*, but in 1459-60, on a *Monday*. I will venture therefore to vindicate the true reading of our old almanacks, and to exterminate a false one from *Caxton's Chronicle*.

"But the Doctor raises a triumph upon his great discovery; and poor *Ecward* is singled out to be lashed for not reading this *Chronicle*, or not making the same use of it with the Doctor. "Mr. *Ecward* (says he, p. 21.) at the end of *Edward IV's* reign, among the learned of that age, mentions *William Caxton* as a writer of *English* history; but seems to doubt whether he was the same with the printer of that name. Had he ever looked into *Caxton's* books, the doubts had been cleared; or had he consulted his *Chronicle of England*, (which it is strange that an *English* historian could neglect) he would have learnt at least to fix the beginning of that reign with more exactness, as it is noted above just two years earlier than he has placed it." Just one year the Doctor should have said: *Ecward* fixing it, very right, *March 4, 1461*, according to the computation in those days (i. e. 1460-1.) the Doctor 1459 according to our computation (i. e. 1459-60.)—But this gentleman seems resolved to be at variance with that historian as far as possible. He gives us his doubts, but so much the worst side of them, that it is but just to let the historian speak for himself. "In this reign flourished *John Harding* and *William Caxton*, both writers of the *English* history. And that which now began to give new encouragement to learning, was the famous art of printing, which was first found out in *Germany* by *John Gutenberg* about 1440, or somewhat later, and was brought into *England* by *William Caxton*, a mercer of *London*, and probably the same with the historian, who first practised the same in the Abbey of *Wolminger* 1471; and the eleventh of

"this

friends, whose assistance is acknowledged in their preface, were the

"this reign." The historian writes so agreeably to the Doctor's hypothesis, that one would think he need not be so much ashamed of his company.

"As we are now upon chronology, I will give you another instance of the Doctor's fondness of singularity in it. Pag. 11. he cites from Mr. *Maittaire*, *Anselmus's* Epigrams, printed at *Venice* 1472, with this designation of the year at the end, *A nativitate Christi ducentesima nonagesima quinta Olympiadis anno 11*. Where, by the way, to make the designation of the year at the end correspond to the figures at the beginning 1472, it should be read *nonagesima quarta*. Whether this is an error of the press in the *Venice* edition, or only in Mr. *Maittaire's* account of it, I know not. But the point I am coming to, Mr. *Bavins*, is the Doctor's pompous remark. "The printer, says he, follows the common mistake, both of the *ancients* and *moderns*, of taking the Olympiad for a term of five years complete. Whereas it included but four, and was celebrated every fifth; as the *Lustrum* likewise of the *Romans*." I have consulted upon this occasion various modern writers of chronology, from *Joseph Scaliger*, down to *Adam Littleton*; and all I have yet met with make an Olympiad to consist, as the Doctor does, of no more than four years complete. There are some passages indeed among the *Roman* poets to the contrary; who, out of poetical liberty, have extended the Olympiad to five years, the usual term of their own *Lustrum*. But they have not been supposed to speak with chronological exactness, since there are more express authorities against them: so that the Doctor's opinion here, and I like it never the worse, is the common one. But that the *Roman Lustrum* included only four years, is too singular, I dare say, for him to stand by. It was ordinarily celebrated, as he says, every fifth year; that is, the 5th, the 10th, 15th, 20th, &c. but not in the same manner, as he himself understands the Olympiad, the 1st, 5th, 9th, 13th, 17th, 21st, &c. the latter being a period of four years, the former of five.

"I am yours, &c."

Mr. *Clarke*, a few days after its appearance, says, "I thank you for your packet. I set out next morning to our city of *Uckfield*, to enquire after your corrections of Dr. *Middleton*. The whole is extremely well; you have used more decency than he deserves. I am only sorry that you contracted your Remarks into such a narrow compass. Was it not possible to enlarge to a six-penny pamphlet? He will naturally overlook a letter in such a Journal, and pretend that he has never heard of it. I have never seen Dr. *M's* pamphlet; but sure it was a monstrous thing, to advance so remarkable an alteration as the era of a King's Reign upon so precarious an authority as the A. D. of a title-page. Perhaps he had some other vouchers: but, whatever they were, you have taught him a secret in Chronology, that, when there are sufficient materials, it is very dangerous indulging conjectures, and neglecting demonstration. That article of *K. Edward* is only silly and singular; the next is scandalous. I am no admirer of *Ecbar'd*, but a great friend to justice. To raise such unreasonable doubts from a modest way of saying the same thing with himself, and from thence to draw such groundless consequences to an author's prejudice, is a sort of *petty-fogging* in writing, that deserves great contempt."

Rev.

Rev. Dr. *Owen* * and the late Mr. *De Miffy* †. Though published anonymously, it was immediately pronounced to be Mr. *Bowyer's*; and on that supposition met, perhaps, with a better fate in the world of letters than it might otherwise have been honoured with. The periodical publications of the continent joined those of *England* in its commendation. Of these let one extract serve as a sample: "Of the many treatises concerning the Origin of Printing, there are few, if any, which will be found more satisfactory than the present; and there is no one that contains so much information in the same compass. The Author professes only to give the substance of two books; but he goes much further. He has interspersed, through the whole piece, a number of valuable notes, which will greatly increase the general stock of knowledge upon the subject, and correct the mistakes of the works he has abridged; this is remarkably the case with Dr. *Middleton's* Dissertation. Without pretending to exhibit a *complete history* of the origin of the art, our author ventures to assert, that he has here given a clearer account of it than is to be met with in any book hitherto published in *England*; and we are fully satisfied of the truth of his assertion. We apprehend, that the public is indebted, for this valuable account of the origin and progress of the art of printing, to one of the last of our learned Printers; a race of men whom we have observed, with concern, to be almost extinct in *Europe*, or at least in our own country ‡."

* The "Collation of the Account of the Dedication of the Temple" was given by this judicious and friendly Divine; and was followed by a very useful treatise of his, under the title of "Critica Sacra, or a short Introduction to *Hebrew* Criticism," and this by a "Supplement" in answer to some remarks on it by Mr. *Raphael Barub*, a learned *Jew*. To Dr. *Owen* the world is also indebted for some excellent "Observations on the Four Gospels;" for an "Enquiry into the Septuagint Version;" for "Directions to young Students in Divinity;" for a series of "Sermons at *Boyle's Lectures*;" and from the same hand may soon be expected an accurate edition of *Grabe's* Collation of the celebrated *Cottonian MS.* with the printed *Vatican*.

† Many of Mr. *De Miffy's* valuable remarks are scattered throughout the Appendix. He died Aug. 10, 1775; aged 72 years and 10 weeks. Some striking particulars of this gentleman's character (extracted from an advertisement prefixed by his amiable consort to a posthumous edition of his "Paraboles ou Fables & autres petites narrations d'un citoyen de la République Chrétienne du dix-huitième siècle,") may be seen in "The Origin of Printing," p. 153, 154.

‡ Monthly Review for *January* 1775. This article was literally translated in the *Journal des Sçavans*, for *April*, 1775.

A second

A second edition of "The Origin of Printing," with considerable improvements, appeared in 1776.

It would be unjust, if, among many far superior obligations, the Collector of these Anecdotes did not acknowledge the assistance he received, in revising the "Original Works of Dr. *King of the Commons*." Many useful hints were suggested, and illustrations added, by Mr. *Bowyer*, as the sheets passed through the press. The same friendly and judicious assistance was experienced in the "Supplement to the Works of Dr. *Swift*."—In both those publications the Editor was also most materially indebted to Mr. *Reed of Staple Inn*, whose friendly assistance has contributed to render this little narrative completer than it otherwise would have been.

Dr. *Bentley* was a writer for whom Mr. *Bowyer* had ever entertained the profoundest respect; and he closed his own literary career, in 1777, with a new edition of that great Critic's "Dissertation on the Epistles of *Phalaris*." In this work are inserted the remarks which occurred to him in the course of many years occasional attention to these subjects, ascribed to the respective writers from whose books or personal communication they were selected. In this publication he was much indebted to the friendly assistance of Dr. *Salter*, the late worthy master of *The Charter-house*; and was again assisted by Dr. *Owen*.

Mr. *Bowyer* had been subject through life to an habitual bilious colic, and during the last ten years of it was afflicted with the palsy and the stone. He was, notwithstanding, in general, remarkably cheerful; and enjoyed exceedingly the conversation of a few literary friends who occasionally continued to visit him. His mental faculties, though somewhat impaired, were sufficiently strong to support the labour of almost incessant reading, which had ever been his principal amusement; and he continued regularly to correct whatever learned work was in his press (particularly *Greek* books) till within a very few weeks of his death; which happened Nov. 18, 1777, when he had nearly completed his 78th year.

If the publications already mentioned were not sufficient evidence of the abilities of Mr. *Bowyer*, the friendship and patronage he was honoured with by many of the most distinguished ornaments of his age would abundantly confirm it. For more than half a century he stood unrivalled as a learned Printer; and

and from his press have undoubtedly appeared some of the most masterly productions of this kingdom. But there are two particulars in his character of still superior eminence; inflexible probity, and an uncommon alacrity in assisting the necessitous. To every species of distress his heart and purse were open; and that with a degree of liberality which, though it was always his endeavour to conceal, it would now be an injustice to his memory not to mention. Naturally fond of retirement, he seldom entered into company, unless with men of letters: yet few, perhaps, ever discriminated more justly the real characters of mankind. He judged of those he saw by a sort of intuition; and generally judged right. Too conscious, perhaps, of literary superiority, he, in some instances, disgusted those best patrons of it—the booksellers. “Penetrated (as he says himself) with a debt of gratitude, which could not be repaid; with an attachment to literature, which could not be indulged; and with delusive hopes, from a college interest or reputation; he felt great abatements to a mechanic’s ambition.” He did not always consider, that the circumstance of being *the employer* carries with it a dignity somewhat more than imaginary. Too proud to solicit the professional favours which he thought he had a claim to, he was not unfrequently disappointed in his expectations. Yet he always consoled himself on the reflection that he had frequently experienced friendships where he had infinitely less reason to have expected them; and, to use an expression of his own, “in what he had received, and what he had been denied, he thankfully acknowledged the will of Heaven.”

In the decline of life, the two great objects he had in view were, to repay the benefactions his father had received, and to be himself a benefactor to the meritorious of his own profession. With these views, after making a permanent provision for an only surviving son, and an additional one in case of marriage, he gave in his last will, besides many legacies to private friends, those which are here specified:

“To the two sons and one daughter of the late Reverend Mr. Maurice of Gothenburgh in Sweden, who married the only daughter of Mr. Richard Williamson Bookseller (in return for her father’s friendship to mine), One Thousand Pounds Four per Cent. Consolidated Annuities, to be divided equally between them, and to be transferred (after deducting what I have already advanced, or shall advance, on their account, in
“ my

" my life-time, such accmpt to be ascertained by my books of
 " accmpt) to whom they shall order for that purpose. I GIVE
 " AND BEQUEATH to Mrs. *Catherine Markland*, sister to my late
 " worthy friend Mr. *Jeremiah Markland*, Three Hundred and
 " Fifty-one Pounds, deducting from that sum whatever I shall
 " from this time * advance to her in my Life-time, such accmpt
 " to be ascertained by my books of accmpt.—Among my father's
 " numerous benefactors, there is not, that I can hear of, one
 " alive: To several of them I made an acknowledgement. But
 " one respectable body I am still indebted to, the Univerfity of
 " *Cambridge*; to whom I give, or rather restore, the sum of
 " Fifty Pounds, in return for the donation of Forty Pounds
 " made to my father, at the motion of the learned and pious
 " master of *St. John's College*, Doctor *Robert Jenkin*: to a
 " nephew of his I have already given another Fifty Pounds, as
 " appears by his receipt of the thirty-first of *May*, one thousand
 " seven hundred and seventy †. *The benefactions* which my father
 " received from *Oxford* I can only repay with gratitude; as he
 " received them, not from the univerfity as a body, but from
 " particular members. I GIVE Thirty Pounds ‡ to the Dean

* He had *before* advanced 149*l* ; making in the whole 300 *l*.

† Now in the possession of one of his executor. Previous to this donation, he wrote the following anonymous letter, which was conveyed by a third hand:

" REV. SIR,

" As you are the Grandson **, I understand, of Dr. *Jenkin*, the late
 " worthy master of *St. John's College, Cambridge*, who by his interest ob-
 " tained a donation of Forty Pounds from that Univerfity to my father, after
 " his loss by fire, in *Jan.* 1713: I beg your acceptance of Fifty Pounds in
 " return; which I shall send you in a bank note the next post after I hear
 " this letter safely reaches you, desiring you will not mention it during my
 " life at least. I shall further beg you will send me a receipt of it, as I
 " have mentioned it in my will; but, thinking it will be more acceptable
 " now, I beg leave, in this instance, to be my own executor. I am, Sir,
 " Your sincere friend and humble servant."

The answer was short, but significant:

" SIR,

May 27, 1770.

" Your proposal expresses your gratitude in the most eminent manner.
 " and I wish I knew your name, to set forth your praise. I am, Sir,
 " Your greatly obliged and humble servant."

‡ This sum the respectable Gentlemen who received it have handsomely appropriated to the purchase of valuable books, as the most honourable mode of perpetuating the testator's gratitude.

** The gentleman (as afterwards appeared) was nephew to Dr. *Jenkin*.

" and

" and Chapter of *Canterbury*, in gratitude for the kindness of the
 " worthy doctor *Stanhope* (sometime dean of *Canterbury*) to my
 " father; the remembrance of which amongst the proprietors of
 " his works I have long out-lived, as I have experienced by not
 " being employed to print them: the like I might say of the
 " works of Mr. *Nelson*, another respectable friend and patron of
 " my father's; and of many others. I GIVE to Doctor *William*
 " *Heberden* my little cabinet of coins, with *Hickes's Thesaurus*,
 " *Tristan* and the odd volume, *Spanheim's Numismata*, *Har-*
 " *duin's Opera Selecta* in folio, *Nummi Populorum et Urbium*
 " in quarto, and any other of my books he chuses to accept: to
 " the reverend doctor *Henry Owen*, such of my *Hebrew* books,
 " and critical books on the New Testament, as he pleases to
 " take: to *Richard Gough* Esquire, in like manner, my books
 " on Topographical subjects: to Mr. *John Nichols*, all books
 " that relate to *Cicero*, *Livy*, and the *Roman History*, particularly
 " the *Cenotaphia* of *Noris* and *Pighius*, my Grammars and
 " Dictionaries, with *Swift's* and *Pope's Works*: to my Son, what-
 " ever books (not described above) he thinks proper to take.—
 " And now I hope I may be allowed to leave somewhat for the
 " benefit of Printing. To this end, I give to the master and
 " keepers or wardens and commonalty of the mystery or art of a
 " Stationer of the city of *London*, such a sum of money as will
 " purchase Two Thousand Pounds Three *per Cent.* Reduced
 " Bank Annuities, upon trust, to pay the Dividends and Yearly
 " produce thereof, to be divided for ever equally amongst three
 " printers, compositors or pressmen, to be elected from time
 " to time by the master, wardens, and assistants, of the said com-
 " pany, and who at the time of such election shall be sixty-three
 " years old or upwards, for their respective lives, to be paid half-
 " yearly; hoping that such as shall be most deserving will be
 " preferred. AND WHEREAS I have herein before given to my
 " Son the sum of Three Thousand Pounds Four *per Cent.* Con-
 " solidated Annuities, in case he marries with the consent of my
 " executors: now, I do hereby GIVE AND BEQUEATH the divi-
 " dends and interest of that sum, till such marriage takes place,
 " to the said Company of Stationers, to be divided equally be-
 " tween six other printers, compositors or pressmen, as afore-
 " said, in manner as aforesaid; and, if my said Son shall die un-
 " married, or married without such consent as aforesaid, then I
 " GIVE AND BEQUEATH the said capital sum of Three Thousand
 " Pounds, to the said Company of Stationers, the dividends and
 " yearly

“ yearly produce thereof to be divided for ever equally amongst
 “ six other such old printers, compositors or pressmen, for their
 “ respective lives, to be qualified, chosen, and paid, in manner
 “ as aforesaid.—*It has long been to me* matter of concern, that
 “ such numbers are put apprentices* as compositors without any
 “ share of school-learning, who ought to have the greatest: in
 “ hopes of remedying this, I GIVE AND BEQUEATH to the said
 “ Company of Stationers such a sum of money as will purchase
 “ One Thousand Pounds Three *per Cent.* Reduced Bank Annu-
 “ ties, for the use of one journeyman compositor, such as shall
 “ hereafter be described; *with this special trust*; that the master,
 “ wardens, and assistants, shall pay the dividends and produce
 “ thereof half-yearly to such compositor †: the said master, war-
 “ dens, and assistants, of the said company, shall nominate for
 “ this purpose a compositor who is a man of good life and con-
 “ versation, who shall usually frequent some place of public
 “ worship every *Sunday* unless prevented by sickness, and shall
 “ not have worked on a newspaper or magazine for four years at
 “ least before such nomination, nor shall ever afterwards whilst
 “ he holds this annuity, which may be for life if he continues a
 “ journeyman: he shall be able to read and construe *Latin*, and
 “ at least to read *Greek* fluently with accents; of which he shall
 “ bring a testimonial from the Rector of *St. Martin's Ludgate*
 “ for the time being: I could wish that he shall have been

* That this was not a new idea with him, will appear from the following advertisement, which he many years ago inserted in a public paper:

“ WANTED, an Apprentice, with some share of Learning, the more the
 “ better, to a Freeman of *London*; Fifty Pounds to be paid down, Thirty of
 “ which shall be returned at the end of seven years, if the person behaves
 “ well during that term, which shall be left to the judgement of two or
 “ three indifferent arbitrators. The master, on the other hand, to be at
 “ liberty to return him to his friends, any time after the first year, and be-
 “ fore the last, if he behaves ill. Any reasonable complaint against the
 “ master shall be redressed, at any time; or the indentures dissolved on such
 “ terms as the arbitrators shall determine. Direct for *Z. Z.* expressing the
 “ name, circumstances, and place of abode, of the person proposed: an
 “ answer will be returned within ten days.”

† It may not be improper to observe, that this annuity has been bestowed, by the Company of Stationers, on Mr. *Jacob Wragg*, a compositor in every respect deserving of it. The other annuities have likewise been judiciously given to *nine* deserving and necessitous old printers.

“ brought

"brought up piously and virtuously, if it be possible, at *Merchant*
 " *Taylor's*, or some other public school, from seven years of age
 "till he is full seventeen, and then to serve seven years faithfully
 "as a compositor, and work seven years more as a journeyman,
 "as I would not have this annuity bestowed on any one under
 "thirty-one years of age: if after he is chosen he should behave
 "ill, let him be turned out, and another be chosen in his stead.
 "AND WHEREAS it may be many years before a compositor may
 "be found that shall exactly answer the above description, and it
 "may at some times happen that such a one cannot be found;
 "I would have the dividends in the mean time applied to such
 "person as the master, wardens, and assistants, shall think ap-
 "proaches nearest to what I have described. AND WHEREAS the
 "above trusts will occasion some trouble; I give to the said
 "Company, in case they think proper to accept the trusts, two
 "hundred and fifty pounds."

To the Company of Stationers he also bequeathed a small silver
 cup, inscribed, "The Gift of Mrs. *Eleanor James* to *W. Bow-*
 " *yer*, after his loss by fire, Jan. 30, 1712."—This cup is ac-
 cordingly deposited among the Company's plate, and used by
 them on days of public festivity. Under the original inscription
 is placed the following: "Bequeathed, in 1777, by *William*
 " *Bowyer*, to the Company of Stationers, as a Memorial of their
 "Munificence to his Father after his loss by fire, Jan. 30,
 "1712-13."

Mr. Bowyer was buried at *Low-Layton* in *Essex*, agreeably to his own direction; where a monument is erected in the church to his father's memory and his own, with the following inscription, written by himself:

HVIC MVRO AB EXTRA
VICINVS JACET
GVLIELMVS BOWYER,
TYPOGRAPHVS LONDINENSIS,
DE CHRISTIANO ET LITERATO ORBE
BENEMERITVS;
AB VTROQUE VICISSIM REMVNERATVS;
QUIPPE CUNCTIS BONIS ET FORTVNIS SVIS
SVBITO INCENDIO PENITVS DELETIS,
MVNIFICENTIA SODALIVM STATIONARIORVM,
ET OMNIYM HONORVM FAVOR,
ABREPTAS FACVLTATES CERTATIM RESTAVRAVERE * I
TANTI HOMINEM VITAE INTEGRVM,
SCELERISQVE PVRYM, AESTIMANTES,
VT INGENII PRAEMIO EXVTVM
REDONARENT MERCEDE VIRTVTIS:
VIRIDEM DEPOSUIT SENECTAM, DEC. 27,
ANNO { AETATIS 74.
SALVTIS 1737.

PATRI, PATRONIS, POSTERISQVE EORVM,
IN FID ET GRATI ANIMI MONVMENTVM,
PONI CVRAVIT FILIVS,
MORIENS NOV. 18, 1777;
ANNVM AGENS SEPTVAGESIMVM OCTAVVM.

* In grateful remembrance of this event, the elder Mr. Bowyer had several metal cuts engraved, representing a phoenix rising from the flames, with suitable mottoes; which were used by him and by his son as ornaments in some of the most capital books they printed.

A Bust of him is placed in STATIONERS HALL; with a good portrait of his Father and another of his patron Mr. ~~W. A.~~
A brass plate under it is thus inscribed in his own words, agree-
ably to, a wish he many years ago communicated to his partners:

To the united Munificence of
THE COMPANY OF STATIONERS

and other numerous Benefactors;

who,

when a calamitous Fire, Jan. 30, 1744,

had in one night destroyed the effects

of WILLIAM BOWYER, Printer,

repaired the loss with unparalleled humanity:

WILLIAM, his only surviving son,

being continued Printer of the Votes of the House of Commons,

by his Father's merits,

and the indulgence of Three Honourable Speakers;

and appointed to print the Journals of the House of Lords,

at near LXX years of age,

by the patronage of a Noble Peer;

struggling with a debt of gratitude which could not be repaid,

left this tablet to suggest

what worn-out nature could not express.

EX VOTO PATRONI OPTIMI, AMICISSIMI,
PONI LVBENTER CVRAVIT CLIENS DEVINCTVS

J. NICHOLS. MDCCLXXVIII.



Aug. 28, 1778.

J. N.

struggling with a debt of gratitude which could not be repaid,
 by the patronage of a Noble Peer;
 at near half a century of age,
 and appointed to print the *Annals of the House of Lords*,
 and the *Indulgent* *and* *able* *Speaker*;
 by his Father's merits,
 being continued Printer of the *Volunt* *the House of Commons*,
 William, his only surviving son,
 repaired the loss with unparalleled humanity;
 of William Bowyer, Printer,



1. NICHOLAS. MICHIGANVILLE.
TOWN: LYNDENHURST. COUNTY: CLATSOP. DISTRICT: 1.
IN VOTO TATUM: 1871. AMERICAN.

